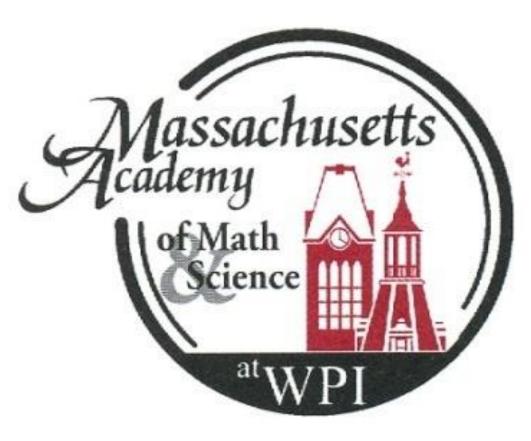
MASS ACADEMY REOPENING PLAN 2020-21



- Message from Director
- Executive Summary
- Models
- Survey results
- Health/Safety
- Out of School Time
- Student Supports
- Professional Learning
- Technology
- Extracurricular Programs
- Health / Safety
- Calendar

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

To the Mass Academy Community,

This year will present us with both great challenges and great opportunity.

The keys to the year will be proactivity, flexibility, and community responsibility. As we continue to deal with the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and maintaining safety of our community as our top priority, we will ask all of you to be #techtogether, supporting the WPI initiative, in helping us.

It all begins with agreeing to some basic community standards:

- Stay home if you are sick
- Wash your hands
- Cover your face
- Watch your space

WPI has a place on their webpage dedicated to reopening announcements:

https://www.wpi.edu/we-are-wpi

You should visit this page often as well as check your email for updates. There will be many as we approach the beginning of the school year. These will apply specifically to schedule readjustments and COVID testing protocols for seniors, both of which are in final stages this week.

Updates will also be posted on the Mass Academy webpage www.massacademy.org . Communication to parents and students will run through this portal, as well as directly through our WPI group emails.

As a school community last year, we successfully completed our D-Term fully engaged through remote learning, collaboration, and completed our project-based approach with our App Fair and Assistive Technology showcase. I have full confidence that throughout this year, students will have a rich, meaningful, and productive experience at Mass Academy.

In our decision-making process, we have utilized the guidance of the Commonwealth, the University, the CDC, our Faculty and Parents, have analyzed data, and have followed our mission and beliefs about learning, to make decisions we feel are in the best interest of the safety, well being, and educational and developmental interests of our students.

The summary of our plans for the Class of 2021 and 2022 are outlined in the following report.

I want to thank everyone who has contributed to this process.



MISSION

THROUGHOUT THIS PROCESS, ALL OUR DECISIONS ARE GUIDED BY OUR MISSION AND BELIEFS ABOUT LEARNING

The mission of the Massachusetts Academy of Math and Science is to prepare students to be leaders in global innovation by engaging them in rigorous, relevant, and integrated and collaborative learning experiences with a STEM focus, and by incorporating the liberal arts and authentic research in a community that is committed to the following:

- Life-long learning, by providing the tools, skills, and strategies for students to engage actively in their own education
- Dynamic and evolving curricula, which are project-based, interactive, and technologically advanced
- Excellence and innovation in education, thereby serving as a model and providing resources for other schools in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts



BELIEFS ABOUT LEARNING

THROUGHOUT THIS PROCESS, ALL OUR DECISIONS ARE GUIDED BY OUR MISSION AND BELIEFS ABOUT LEARNING

Beliefs about Learning

- All students have the potential to achieve.
- Students learn best when given the opportunity to teach others in a collaborative environment.
- Students acquire a deeper knowledge through interactive project-based learning experiences.
- Optimal learning occurs in a safe, supportive community that maintains high expectations.





MASS ACADEMY CLASS OF 2021

Mass Academy seniors had the opportunity to select on-campus or remote learning for the first semester of 2020-2021.

WPI has a place on their webpage dedicated to reopening announcements:

https://www.wpi.edu/we-are-wpi



MASS ACADEMY CLASS OF 2021

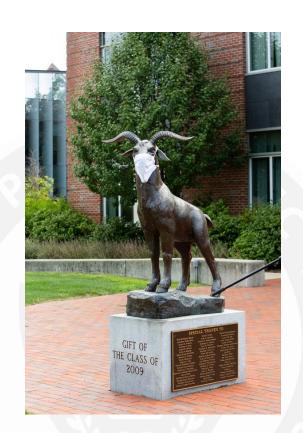
Senior advising will be done remotely with faculty advisors weekly by appointment.

Orientation school-wide meeting Thursday August 27th 6 PM

WPI Classes begin August 31st

MASS ACADEMY CLASS OF 2021

- A <u>Return to Campus Student checklist</u> outlines the <u>required</u>, <u>time-sensitive action items</u> to return to WPI.
- WPI is implementing a detailed <u>Testing Protocol</u> to help protect the entire campus community from the spread of COVID-19, including pre-arrival and routine testing and a symptom tracker mobile app.



CLASS OF 2022

After reviewing reports, data and recommendations from the University, the Governor, the Department of Education, the CDC, and survey results from parents and students, we feel is in the best interest of our students to take a cautious approach and begin the year remotely.

We will bring our two cohorts in for one day each for orientation, to distribute necessary materials, to confirm technology capacity, and to meet our students in person, since the Class of 2022 is new to our school.

The opening week schedule is posted on our website, www.massacademy.org.

CLASS OF 2022

After our initial week (August 26-28), our instructional program will begin the year fully remote. We made this decision after listening to feedback and guidance from the Commonwealth, the Department of Education, the CDC, WPI, our faculty, and most importantly, our parents. Factors for the decision included:

100% of our students have the technological capacity to begin remotely

Our faculty are fully confident in their ability to deliver high quality instruction through remote platforms, as we successfully provided this model for the entire D term 2020

We are focusing on the highest priority of keeping our community safe

We are (one of) the first schools to open in the Commonwealth

We are about to see a population influx into Massachusetts

Data from our over 30 communities still shows yellow/green COVID rates

CLASS OF 2022

We will re-evaluate conditions every two weeks and will be ready to shift to a hybrid schedule (as published in our re-entry plan) with one week's advanced notice to our community if we feel the conditions warrant a safe return to a hybrid schedule including an inperson component.

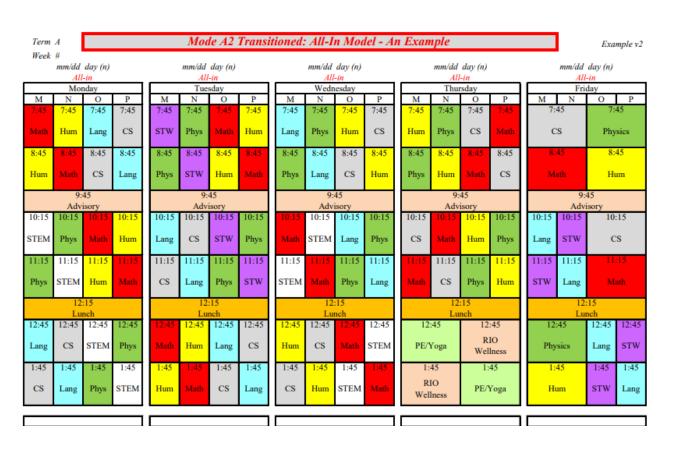
Detailed schedules will be posted on the Mass Academy website www.massacademy.org weekly.

We will host a zoom meeting to discuss this plan and answer any questions on Monday August 17th, at 6:00 PM.

CRITERIA USED IN BUILDING MODELS

- Safety for all, students, faculty, families
- Small cohorts to ensure distancing
- A/B days (students half-in, half-out)
- Ability to change to all-in, all-out (remote), and hybrid
- Breaks, for masks (outside)
- Reduce congestion during passing
- Minimize movement in school for cross-contamination
- Ability to keep cohorts synchronous

SCHEDULING MODEL - IN-PERSON



Full in school

Meets instructional hours

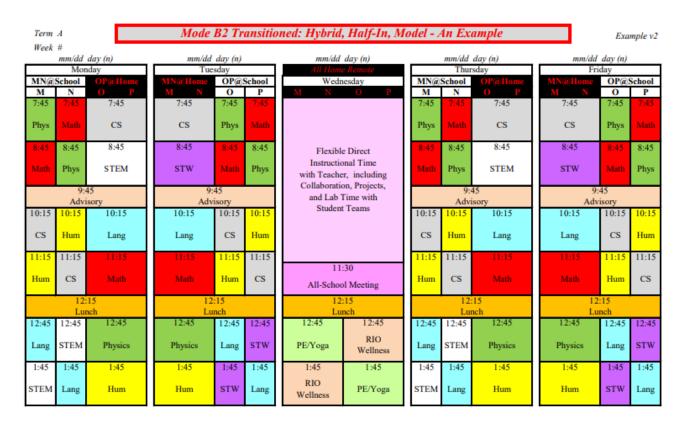
Remote sign in/symptom check

4 sections <14

Lunch in rooms

Concerns with 50 students in building at once

SCHEDULING MODEL - HYBRID



Hybrid model

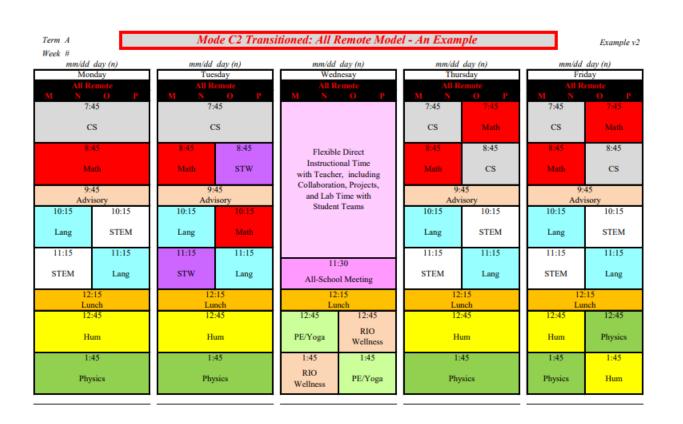
Meets instructional hours

In school/remote learners in synch to accommodate absent students

2 cohorts of 22/28

Remote sign in/symptom check

SCHEDULING MODEL - REMOTE



Remote model

Successfully implemented in D-term 2020

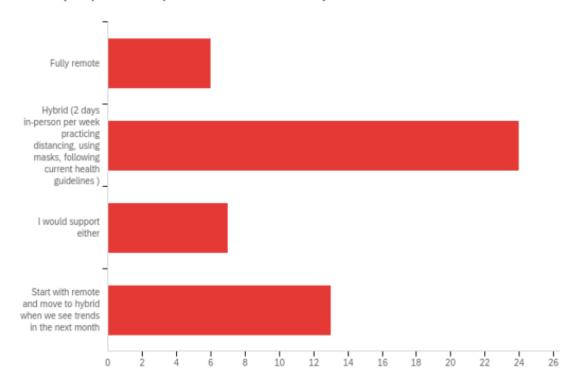
100 % of students have access to tech and internet (confirmed)

Daily app sign in required

Includes daily, twoway communication between students and faculty

Parent/Family Survey Results-Class of 2022

Q1 - Based on the information that you know so far, which instructional delivery method would you prefer to open the 2020-21 school year



Parent/Family Survey Results-Class of 2022

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#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	Do you have access to a laptop or desktop computer?	28.00	28.00	28.00	0.00	0.00	50
2	Do you have access to the internet?	28.00	28.00	28.00	0.00	0.00	50
3	Do you have the ability to scan or take pictures of written documents and digitize them?	28.00	29.00	28.06	0.24	0.06	50

#	Question	Yes		No		Total
1	Do you have access to a laptop or desktop computer?	100.00%	50	0.00%	0	50
2	Do you have access to the internet?	100.00%	50	0.00%	0	50
3	Do you have the ability to scan or take pictures of written documents and	94.00%	47	6.00%	3	50

HEALTH AND SAFETY

The keys to this year will be proactivity, flexibility, and community responsibility. As we continue to deal with the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and maintaining safety of our community as our top priority, we will ask all of you to be #techtogether in helping us.

It all begins with agreeing to some basic community standards:

- Stay home if you are sick
- Wash your hands (a lot)
- Cover your face
- Watch your space



DAILY SYMPTOM CHECKS

If/When we transition to Hybrid, our daily sign in VIA SURVEY/APP will include a documented self-check of the following symptoms.

We will check temperatures as students arrive. If they check at 100.2 or higher, we will send them home.

Please STAY HOME if you have any of the symptoms listed.

- ☐ Fever (100.2° Fahrenheit or higher), chills, or shaking chills
- ☐ Cough (not due to other known cause, such as chronic cough)
- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- ☐ New loss of taste or smell
- ☐ Sore throat
- Headache when in combination with other symptoms
- Muscle aches or body aches
- ☐ Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea
- ☐ Fatigue, when in combination with other symptoms
- Nasal congestion or runny nose (not due to other known causes, such as allergies) when in combination with other symptoms

HEALTH AND SAFETY

- It is not one mitigation strategy but a <u>combination</u> of all these strategies taken together that will substantially reduce the risk of transmission. No single strategy can ever be perfect, but all strategies together will reduce risk. In addition, although we are currently in Phase 3 of Reopening Massachusetts, it will take collective continued vigilance towards health and safety measures to continue to contain COVID-19.
- Staff must monitor themselves for symptoms daily and students, with the assistance of families, must also be monitored daily for symptoms. Staff and students must stay home if feeling unwell. Everyone must do their part to protect others and not come to school if they are exhibiting any COVID-19 symptoms or are feeling sick.
- Masks are among the most important single measures to contain the spread of COVID-19. We require all students and all staff to wear masks that <u>adequately cover both their nose and mouth</u>. Everyone will be required to wear masks at all times, except during specified mask breaks, and during lunch, when a minimum of 6 foot distancing will be in place.
- Hand hygiene is critical. Students and staff are required to exercise hand hygiene (handwashing or sanitizing) upon arrival to school, before eating, before putting on and taking off masks, and before dismissal.

HEALTH AND SAFETY-FACILITIES

- School cleaning and disinfecting: Cleaning and disinfecting will occur daily
 for shared spaces and furniture. For high-touch surfaces (e.g., door handles,
 light switches, handrails), cleaning and disinfecting will occur multiple times
 per day between uses. Students will clean desktops prior to use at the start
 of each class.
- Ventilation: Individual Honeywell Air Purifiers have been added to each classroom to enhance air cleaning. Ventilation system inspection and filter replacement completed.
- Movement protocols within facilities: Clear movement protocols with new signage have been developed to avoid crowding, maintain cohorts, and minimize unnecessary person-to-person interactions. These protocols include a plan for arrival and dismissal times (sign-in and out through app), transitions between classes, and bathroom breaks, as well as outlining one-way movement pathways for hallways and Brickyard / cafeteria.

SUMMARY OF FACILITIES CHANGES

Summary of major facility changes

- Plexiglass barrier at reception desk
- Hand sanitizing stations in classrooms
- Individual desks replacing tables
- Senior/juniors lounge areas temporarily removed
- Directional signage
- Signage limiting seating
- Cleaning products/paper towel dispensers installed in all classrooms to facilitate in keeping workspaces clean
- Signage reminders to follow safety protocols (masks/hygiene/distancing)
- Air purifiers in classrooms
- Daily maintenance service increased

HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Masks: Masks covering the nose and mouth are to be worn by students staff, visitors, and vendors. Mask breaks have been scheduled during the day and will be allowed during lunch with increased distancing protocols.
- Handwashing and hand sanitizing: Encouraging good hand hygiene practices is another
 key tool to mitigate transmission of the virus. From a facilities and operations
 perspective, good hand hygiene practices begins from student and staff arrival at
 school until their departure. Mass Academy has provided sanitizing stations in common
 areas (e.g., lobby, library, entry to Brickyard), as well as in each classroom, ensuring
 sufficient supplies to accommodate frequent hand sanitizing, and has hand washing
 stations in the kitchen area and in the restrooms.
- Physical distancing: Physical distancing is a critical component in mitigating the
 transmission of the virus. Mass Academy has provided individual desks in each
 classroom (except for CS where tables will be designated seating providing minimum 3
 foot distancing) with at least 3 feet is the minimum distance allowed. During meals,
 mask breaks, and other times when masks are not worn, 6 feet will the minimum
 distance allowed, with signage marking tables in Brickyard. Guidelines provided to
 design classroom distancing provided by DESE were used to calculate classroom layouts
 and capacities.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Protocol: Student is symptomatic at school

- 1. Nurse through telehealth should evaluate the student for symptoms
 - a. IF ANY SYMPTOM:
 - i. Place the student in the designated medical waiting room. Strict mask wearing covering the nose and mouth at all times. Students can work on individual schoolwork or other activities while in the medical waiting room
 - ii. Contact caregiver for pick-up.
 - a. A CAREGIVER or EMERGENCY CONTACT MUST PICK UP DURING THE DAY: Student waits to be picked up in the medical waiting room. Caregivers must wear a mask/face covering when picking up their student. Caregivers and students should wash their hands upon arriving at home and change their clothes as a precaution.
 - iii. Current Massachusetts DPH guidance is that all symptomatic individuals in Massachusetts, even those with mild symptoms, should be tested. An individual who does not wish to be tested should instead isolate for 14 days and until asymptomatic.
- A summary of all health protocols is posted on our website

TECHNOLOGY

Collaboration tools

All students will be oriented to the expectations of WPI and Mass Academy teachers. Tools/platforms in use will include:

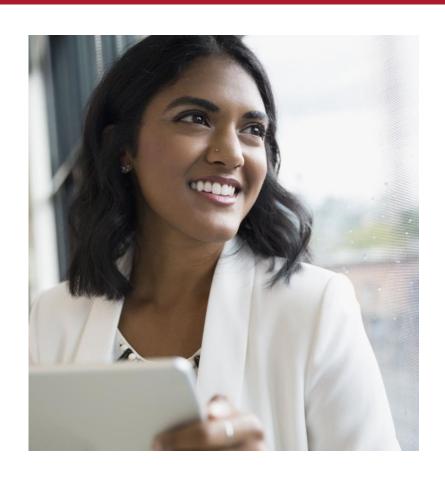
- Face-to-face communication (e.g. Google Meet, Zoom, Microsoft Teams)
- Document collaboration (e.g. Google Documents, Microsoft Office 365, Canvas)
- File-sharing (e.g. Dropbox, Google Drive, Office 365)
- Calendar-sharing (e.g. Google Calendar, Microsoft Outlook)

Support available through WPI helpdesk Students will also access individual faculty websites



COMMUNICATION

- All students and families are connected via the <u>www.masasacademy.edu</u> and www.wpi.edu websites
- All students have a @wpi.edu email address
- All parents are part of a group email distribution list for communications from the director, faculty members, school groups and organizations and the PSG (parent support group)
- Every student will have daily contact with teachers
- Juniors will have weekly school-wide meetings with the Director for updates
- All faculty have websites / canvas sites for student access



ASSESSMENT

CLASS OF 2021

WPI issues grades to students and reports them to the Academy for inclusion in students' Mass Academy transcripts. WPI course grades are A, B, C, or NR (No Record). For Mass Academy students, a grade of NR is a failing grade.

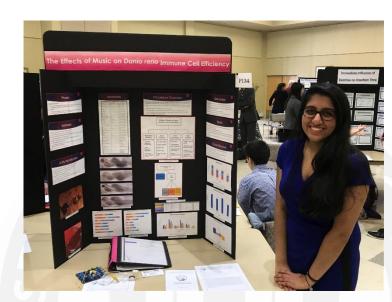
Professors list individual weekly office hours on syllabus at beginning of term.



ASSESSMENT

CLASS OF 2022

- For **A Term**, students receive detailed narrative assessments of their performance in each course that focus on their habits of mind and course content. Parent conferences with every family are held after A term to discuss narrative reports.
- For **B Term**, students receive interim letter grades (A, B, C, D, or F) for each course.
- For **C Term**, students receive interim letter grades (A, B, C, D, or F) and narrative assessments for each course, plus a final grade for STEM I.
- For **D Term**, students receive final letter grades (A, B, C, D, or NR) for all courses. An NR (which stands for "No Record") is given in cases where a student has not met the minimum requirements of the course. An NR results in no record of the course appearing on the student's academic transcript.



TRANSPORTATION

- Mass Academy does not provide transportation to school
- Travel ban in effect until further notice from the University, including all school sponsored trips
- Mass Academy will follow transportation distancing protocols when school sponsored travel resumes
- Class of 2022 students are not eligible to utilize Gateway shuttle services as they are not part of the COVID testing protocols



EXTRACURRICULARS

There will be extracurricular courses/clubs running, beginning after Labor Day.

Extracurriculars will begin remotely and we will be putting out a survey shortly to gauge interest. Extracurricular programming may remain remote if the school transitions to hybrid scheduling to include both cohorts.

Extracurriculars for A term will include:

- Arduinos (individual kits will be provided)
- Robotics (individual materials will be provided)
- Math team
- CAD (Computer Aided Design / Drawing)
- SAGA (Sexuality and Gender Alliance)

B and C term extracurriculars will include Slam Poetry, Programming Team, Cyberpatriot, and others.

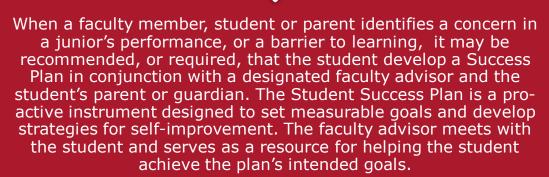
WELLNESS

- MASS ACADEMY SUPPORTS THE HEALTH AND WELL BEING OF <u>ALL</u> OF OUR STUDENTS.
- Mass Academy supports the health and wellness of all students
- Examples of systemic support for students include:
- SLEEP 101: Training to support the benefits of healthy sleep patterns
- RIO: A new program for juniors offered A-term to explore and support mindfulness and resilience
- Yoga to support physical and mental health and wellness
- Counseling support
- Advising systems for juniors and seniors
- Wellness committee to monitor health and safety policies
- Telehealth services / consults from our nursing staff

EQUITY AND ACCESS



Based on identified needs (IEP, ELL, 504), Mass Academy students will receive appropriate services. The Academy's guidance counselor advises each student on personal and academic matters, as well as managing Individual Education Plans and 504 Plans, and working in coordination with the school nurse and Director on developing student wellness programs.



OUT OF SCHOOL TIME

- Mass Academy faculty are available for extra help/support by appointment. Each faculty member will provide guidelines to make appointments via zoom when in remote session.
- Typically, appointment times are available before school, between 2:45 PM and 4:45 PM M-F, and Wednesday from 7:45 AM-11:45 AM (when in the remote schedule).
- Additional availability may be provided by faculty.
- WPI faculty members publish regular office hours each term.



FACULTY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT 2020-21



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT MEETINGS (ZOOM) JULY 6, JULY 30, AUG 3



MASS ACADEMY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT MEETINGS ON SITE AUGUST 24, AUGUST 25



WEEK OF AUGUST 17TH FOR CLASSROOM PREPARATION



WPI TRAINING ON REMOTE PEDAGOGY AVAILABLE SUMMER/FALL



COVID-19 REQUIRED TRAINING AND MANDATORY COVID TESTING AUGUST 4-17

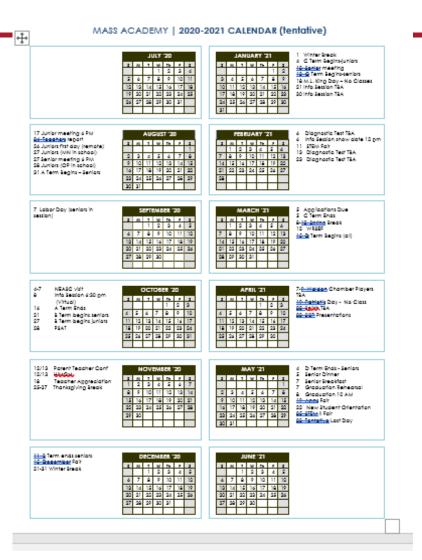


FERPA, BULLYING AND HARRASSMENT, PRIVACY, TITLE IX



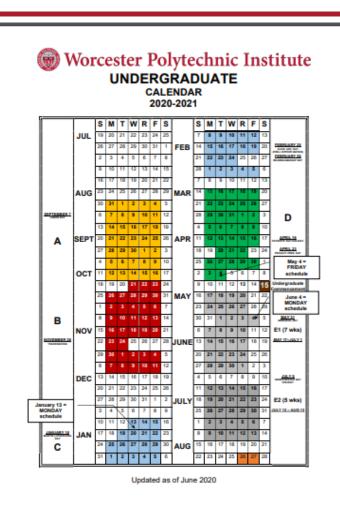
FIRST AID

MASS ACADEMY CALENDAR 2020-21



- Opening Day August 26th remote
- Cohorts report inperson August 27th (A-M/N), August 28th (B-O/P)
- Re-evaluate every two weeks
- Will be prepared to switch to hybrid with one week's notice to community based on conditions

WPI CALENDAR 2020-21



- Opening day August 31st
- Students must follow weekly testing protocol
- Switch to remote learning if positive test or if notified of close contact requiring quarantine
- University will notify student if situation warrants any changes in calendar or instruction