

## FAQS FOR ADMITTED STUDENTS: COVID-19 and Career Development

Due to the uncertainty surrounding COVID-19, we know many of you have questions as you prepare to begin your legal education and future legal employment. We hope the following FAQs help answer some of your questions.

**Q: What is the schedule for orientation?**

A: Detailed information regarding orientation can be found on our website under the [“Important Dates”](#) section.

**Q: How will fall instruction be conducted?**

A: Fall semester 1L courses will be “HyFlex” courses that are occasionally, or sometimes completely (depending on the instructor/section), operated as distance education. HyFlex courses have an assigned physical classroom in addition to a scheduled set of day(s) and time(s) each week for instruction. Whether a particular section (torts, contracts, civil procedure for the day program; civil procedure and property for the part-time evening program) is operated in HyFlex, or distance education (rarely or never meeting in the physical classroom), or elements of both, depends on the instructor/section. Given the uncertainty surrounding the pandemic, the designation (HyFlex, distance education) may change between now and the start of the semester, or during the semester. When a class session is operated in distance education mode, this will primarily be a live class session through internet video conferencing at the time/days for which the course is scheduled to meet.

The HyFlex model is flexible and is one that UH is implementing throughout the campus. Under the Law Center’s approach to a HyFlex course, a 1L student can attend a course physically in a large auditorium classroom (Krost Hall) with ample social distancing space with rigorous and regular cleaning. A student also has the option to attend via remote presence: attend by joining an internet videoconferencing session that will be operated at the same time as the class session. All Law Center classrooms have the available technology for remote presence.

HyFlex class sessions will be recorded for later viewing. The 1L experience is traditionally envisioned to benefit from the physical classroom experience, but the Law Center is experienced with students attending courses via remote presence. How you attend will be your choice.

Krost Hall normally seats over 400, and its social distance capacity is substantially larger than the size of a 1L section. Krost seating will ensure a 6-foot distance between student seats and at least an 8-foot distance between professors and students.

Please be advised, the format for fall instruction is subject to change due to federal, state, and local guidelines and regulations.

**Q: What physical efforts is UH and the Law Center taking for sanitation?**

A: Hand sanitizers will be available throughout the building and face coverings will be required. Please view the mandatory [face covering policy](#) on campus. Cleaning and sanitization will be conducted throughout the day and overnight.

**Q: Will there be a change in tuition under HyFlex and distance learning?**

A: The University of Houston, not the Law Center, makes the decisions about tuition and fees. Our understanding is that the Law Center's tuition and fees will not be affected by any change in mode of course delivery.

**Q: Do students have to move to Houston for the fall semester?**

A: Living in the Houston area will provide additional opportunities, such as in-person instruction and traditional networking with your fellow classmates. However, the HyFlex and distance education approach do allow for residing elsewhere. Therefore, it is a personal decision whether your living arrangements are in Houston or elsewhere.

**Q: Will classes end after Thanksgiving?**

A: All classes and final exams scheduled after the Thanksgiving break will transition to distance education according to the current academic calendar.

**Q: Will the law school be considering P/F grading for the fall semester?**

A: It is unlikely classes will be graded pass/fail in the fall semester. Grading was pass/fail in the most recent spring and summer semesters because of the sudden and unexpected nature of the change to distance education.

**Q: How will the HyFlex learning model affect parking?**

A: In the fall of 2019, UH opened the Elgin Street Garage which holds over 2,500 spaces in close proximity to the Law Center building. We do not anticipate that any change in teaching mode will have any effect on parking.

**Q: What is the UH approach for mitigating the spread of the COVID-19?**

A: The University of Houston has a campus wide plan to identify, monitor and mitigate the spread of the virus. There are COVID-19 Diagnosis and Symptoms Protocols for students, faculty, and staff. Details regarding the student protocols can be found [here](#). A student is required to report if they have symptoms or test positive by completing the [Reporting COVID-19 Diagnosis/Symptoms](#) form. Students will be asked to self-quarantine and are provided guidance through the [Self-Quarantine](#) protocols. Students are not to return to campus until a [Request to Return to Campus](#) form is submitted and written approval is received.

**Q: Will potential scholarships be affected by COVID-19?**

A: We do not foresee scholarship opportunities being affected by COVID-19.

**Q: Will there be lunch talk sessions?**

A: Programming and events will continue in an online format.

**Q: Will the library be open for study or group sessions?**

A: The Law Center building is currently closed. A decision has not yet been made regarding the reopening of the O'Quinn Law Library. Rest assured, under any circumstances, the library staff will be available to help students with their research questions and searches.

**Q: Given COVID-19, how has the Law Center adapted to interviewing, recruiting, and the changing legal market for first-year students?**

A: The Law Center's Career Development Office (CDO) has hosted workshops for students on how to search for employment and work online. We plan to host career fairs and on-campus interviews in an online format as well. The CDO conducts trainings for students to work remotely and provides tips on how to make the best impression in the online world. All Fall 2020 programming will be virtual, and we advise our students to remain flexible and become familiar with available technology to ensure success.

The CDO and employers have found creative ways for our students to continue their internships and externships. Employers have adjusted to allow for remote and online employment. Employers have allowed our students to continue internships and externships online. The Texas Supreme Court and the lower courts have had hearings and conference sessions online. The Law Center clinics have also represented clients online. All affording our students with opportunities to get practical experience even in an online environment.

**Q: What programming will be provided for career and professional development during the 1L year?**

A: The CDO has scheduled the following career events for first-year law students in 2020-2021:

- **Passport to Success Professional Development Series** - Four mandatory 1L professional development training sessions on career options, the legal market, interviewing, recruiting, and professionalism. (Programs will be virtual in Fall 2020 and as needed in Spring 2021) (August 2020, September 2020 (virtual), January 2021, and March 2021)
- **Lunch/Dinner with a Lawyer** - Lawyers discuss their practice areas and practice environments during the lunch and dinner hour; students network with practicing attorneys virtually. (September 2020 (virtual), October 2020 (virtual), and virtual as needed in March 2021)

- **Judicial Panel** – Judge Gray H. Miller and his law clerks and judicial interns will provide an overview of federal, state, appellate and magistrate positions (October 2020 (virtual))
- **HBA Diversity & Inclusion Program Committee Information Session** – The committee will discuss their 1L Summer Clerkship and Mentoring Program, including the application process and types of employers and opportunities. (November 2020 (virtual))
- **Meet the OCI Employers** – Table talk style event for 1L students to meet and greet the OCI employers before the Spring semester begins. (December 2020) (virtual)
- **Spring Mock Interview Program** – CDO and local attorneys assist students in preparing for interviews. (Program will be virtual if needed.) (January 2021)
- **OCI: Session III** – Employers interview students on campus for summer legal internships. (Program will be virtual if needed.) (January 2021)
- **Government and Public Interest Table Talk (GPITT)** – Public Interest Law Week culminates in our largest recruiting event for public interest and government employers—the UHLC Government and Public Interest Table Talk (GPITT). Local government and public interest employers come to UHLC to meet students and discuss summer internship opportunities during the table talk. Students bring application documents when meeting with employers in person. (Program will be virtual if needed.) (January 2021)
- **Small & Midsize Firm Open House** – Geared specifically towards small to midsize firms (50 or fewer attorneys), local employers come to UHLC to speak to students interested in law clerk, summer associate, and attorney positions. Culminating after career panels discussing the advantages and challenges of small, mid-size and growing firms, the career fair gives employers the opportunity to share information about their organizations and opportunities for the upcoming summer or academic year. Students interested in niche practice areas or the hands-on training and experience typical of smaller firms should attend this recruiting program. (Program will be virtual if needed.) (February 2021)