Student Organization Fall 2020 Safety Guidelines

WHY ENGAGEMENT MATTERS

- Research shows that engagement is important to the overall success and retention of students.
- Engaging in student organizations is one way to find that community and belonging. Involved students enrich their learning in deeper ways, are offered opportunities to practice the information and skills they are learning in class, find community, have more opportunities for individual growth and identity development, and begin to build relationships and social capital.
- Getting involved and engaging in outside the classroom activities increases student retention, improves student satisfaction with the college experience, strengthens staff-student relationships, improves career development and readiness, improves personal efficacy and self-awareness, facilitates cultural and racial understanding, offers opportunities to grow interpersonal communication and leadership skills, and increases the affinity towards the University of Maryland.

STUDENT PROGRAMMING

The University of Maryland is concerned for the health and safety of the entire University community, and continues to be in compliance with guidelines from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, as well as those from state and local agencies. Even when these guidelines allow for events or gatherings, great care must be taken to limit and prevent the community transmission of COVID-19. Faculty, staff and student wellness and safety are a priority, and student organizations are key partners in the endeavor to keep our community healthy and safe. The nature of the disease is such that actions taken by an individual affect not only the well-being of that individual, but the well-being of every person with whom that individual has interacted with on our shared campus.

Student organizations have an important role to play in providing opportunities for students to connect and deepen friendships, deepen engagement with the university, as well as to engage in experiential learning. For these reasons the Student Organization Resource Center has put in place the following guidelines for student organizations to help keep our community safe and reduce the opportunities for transmission of COVID-19.

SORC may modify these expectations at any time and will provide notice in the event such modifications are made. Student organizations must keep apprised of changes to the expectations, and abide by them.

Last updated 2020.11.20
Even when State and County guidance allows for events or gatherings, great care must be taken to limit and prevent the community transmission of COVID-19 within our UMD community.

The following are guidelines outlined by the Student Organization Resource Center and the University of Maryland, based on guidance from the University, University System of Maryland, State, Prince George’s County and the Center for Disease Control (CDC).

- All student organization meetings, activities, events are to be held virtually beginning Monday, November 16, 2020.

Off-Campus Events

- No off-campus events or programs are permitted. Per the recent university notification indicating that spring guidelines around travel continue to be in place, no university funds can be used for travel. This also best ensures that safe event practices are in place at only venues where university recommendations can be consistently enforced.
  - This includes fundraisers at food venues that are off-campus.

Additional Considerations

**Giveaways/Flyering/Distribution of Items**

- Student organizations are strongly discouraged from distributing print materials and/or physical items to reduce spread of the COVID-19 virus.