

BACK, BLENDED, BETTER: Q&A REGISTRATION & LEARNING



Information on Study Group Delivery Methods, Membership Purchases, Registration Process.

Delivery Methods

STUDY GROUPS:

This fall will be full of choice — OLLI will offer 30% virtual study groups and 70% in-person study groups. Due to the negative impacts on engagement, technical complications, and resource constraints, at this time, no single study group will be offered as a hybrid option in which some members of a study group are in-person and some members are virtual. Each study group will be either 100% virtual or 100% in person.

Due to classroom space planning and varied member location, no study group that chooses to be virtual will be able to switch to in-person later in the term. Virtual study groups must remain virtual for the full 14 weeks.

LECTURES:

Noontime speakers may be in-person (at either campus) or virtual depending on their location and availability. Because noontime lectures are lecture-based vs. discussion-based, we will offer these as hybrid experiences in which some members can be on campus together (in a classroom together with the speaker or in a classroom together with the speaker on Zoom), while others can continue to join via Zoom webinar from their homes.

Space

Space is at a premium in both buildings we occupy. As a result, it is unlikely that there will be unoccupied classrooms for members to participate in one of their virtual study groups from campus. There are common spaces throughout campus and even local coffee shops where a headset or earbuds could be effective. However, we do not recommend participating in a virtual study group from a common area where your participation might be a disruption to others. Therefore, please choose your study groups carefully so you can be either on campus or at home when need be.

Membership Purchases and Registration

When considering your membership purchase, know that you can purchase a full year membership and participate in-person and/or virtually throughout the year.

- OLLI members with a full year membership receive the benefit of a Northwestern Wildcard (see below for specifics).
- This fall OLLI will offer 30% virtual study groups and 70% in-person study groups. We anticipate coordinators will continue to offer both delivery types in all future terms, so you can enjoy this level of choice going forward.

Q&A: REGISTRATION & LEARNING, CONT

- All winter study groups will always be virtual in order to:
 - o eliminate the commute during Chicago's inclement winter weather,
 - o provide access to study groups from any location, considering our many members who travel during the winter months,
 - o continue to engage members from both Northwestern campuses and beyond.
- No matter where you choose to spend your winters (or springs, summers, or falls!), the Northwestern OLLI community and its stimulating learning continues to be accessible and ready for you.

Membership Purchases and Registration will continue to be online. However, if you truly do not have the equipment needed to complete these tasks online, OLLI staff and volunteers are providing limited hours for in-person assistance on a first-come, first-served basis. (If you have been registering online over the last year, these office hours are not appropriate for you, as we expect nearly all members to continue to register and pay for memberships via the online registration system.)

Chicago OLLI Office open for in-person membership purchase assistance (only for those without the equipment needed for online registration)

August 3rd from 1pm – 4pm

August 4th from 1pm – 4pm

Evanston OLLI Office open for in-person membership purchase assistance (only for those without the equipment needed for online registration)

August 10th from 1pm – 4pm

August 11th from 9:30am – 12:30pm

Both OLLI offices open for in-person registration assistance (only for those without the equipment needed for online registration)

August 16 from 9am – 2pm

Choice and Flexibility

Our return to campus will be one of choice – virtual or on campus experiences to meet your needs, study group days and times to meet your schedule, and topic areas to meet your interests. We are proud of the outstanding level of variety you will see in the fall catalog.

Remember, every study group will have a maximum number of seats in order to maintain the high quality, peer-led learning model that Northwestern OLLI is known for. As a result, not everyone may get into their first choice. However, members are often pleasantly surprised and pleased by their second, third, or even fourth choice study group which expanded their interests and their friendships. In the spirit of lifelong learning, we encourage members to keep an open mind when registering. There are many outstanding study groups from which to choose!