

You are entering podiatric medical school at an incredible time. First year medical students across the nation are embarking upon medicine at a time when the field needs you the most, but that doesn't mean the journey will be easy. COVID-19 has likely impacted nearly every aspect of your lives and it will impact your first semester in podiatric medical school.

The University and College are making decisions with the safety of you – the students – and our faculty, staff and patients in mind. We will be following appropriate measures as recommended by local, state and national public health and CDC officials. That being said, there are different precautions the University is taking to ensure that your safety is a priority. To that end, the Fall semester will be built upon a hybrid learning model of in-person and remote classes and labs.

While you have already received the [course schedule for the fall semester](#), below you will find the course delivery method.

M-I Courses for Class of 2024: Fall Semester

Course Delivery: Face to Face, Available to view on Boxcast (Boxcast is a live-streaming and recording platform)

Courses to be delivered in this format: Medical Genetics

Course Delivery: Face to Face

To be delivered in this format: Anatomy Lab

Course Delivery: Hybrid (Face to Face & Remote)

Courses to be delivered in this format: Podiatry, Professionalism & Society I and Medical Research (Medical Research begins mid-semester)

Course Delivery: Remote (Platforms determined by professors)

Courses to be delivered in this format: Human Anatomy and Embryology, Cells & Tissues, Medical Ethics, and Staying Alive (Staying Alive begins mid-semester)

Scheduling: Classes offered in person will be held in classrooms A & B, which is where orientation will be held. There is a limit of 59 students permitted in the classroom at one time. Actual seats will be marked off so that students can easily follow physical distancing requirements. While we understand that some students prefer the classroom environment, others may prefer to learn remotely. In addition, the evolving circumstances of COVID-19 and the additional safety measures ([Flashes Safe Seven](#)) the college will be following may provide additional context in your decision making.

The class will be divided into PODS, which will be used for small group assignments in some classes and for anatomy lab dissection. In an effort to allow all students the opportunity to be in the classroom initially, the class will be split in half. We will utilize the PODS to indicate which students have the opportunity to sit in the classroom for certain courses on a rotating basis, if they so choose. (For example: PODS 1-10 may be able to sit in the lecture hall for Medical Genetics the first class of the semester. PODS 11-20 may be able to sit in the lecture hall for

Medical Genetics the second class of the semester.) The PODS will be added to the Google calendar for the first couple of months of the semester (and further out if necessary.) **We understand that many students may still elect to watch lectures remotely through BoxCast.** As professors gauge attendance in the classroom, we anticipate removing any limitations on which PODS will be able to attend lectures on campus on specific days. Faculty will provide updates as the semester continues.

More information about each fall course and lab will be delivered by each of your professors during orientation.

Testing: Assessments will need to be administered remotely. Course coordinators will determine the testing platform and notify students. You will notice in your supply listing the need to obtain a whiteboard that may be allowed for some tests. You may also want to purchase ear-plugs if that may help block out noise (foam/silicone non-tech ear-plugs only; no headphones or earbuds). You can find the full listing of textbooks, supplies, and other items needed for the fall term by visiting the [Class of 2024 website](#).

Office Hours: Faculty understand that these particular circumstances make interacting with some of them more difficult. Professors will share their office hours and the best way to reach them with questions or concerns at the beginning of the semester.

Study Spaces: There will still be study spaces open throughout the college. The library, tutoring rooms, group study spaces, cubicles, quiet study room and rotunda will still allow for studying, however, the seating in each of these areas is minimized to allow for physical distancing. Seats in these areas will also be “marked” so that you can easily follow physical distancing guidelines. We are working to maximize space throughout the building and hope to offer additional spaces for quiet study.

Contingency Planning: As I mentioned above, and as you are all aware, COVID-19 is an evolving situation. Faculty are working on contingency plans for all courses, labs and rotations in the event that a surge of cases happens in Ohio and/or there may be a greater risk. The University and our College will continue to adhere to the guidance of local, state and national public health and CDC officials.

Flashes Safe Seven: You will hear about the Flashes Safe Seven a lot. [We expect all members of the KSUCPM community to follow the guidelines listed here](#). Additional details about safety measures and ensuring the safety of those around you will be provided before the semester begins.

While it may not be a traditional start to podiatric medical education, it does not damper our enthusiasm to welcome you on campus and into the Kent State family!

We are eager to welcome you on campus.

Allan M. Boike, DPM, FACFAS
Dean