

August 4, 2020

Boston University Questrom School of Business

Back2QUESTROM

QUESTROM MBA FALL PLANS

Dear Students,

I am excited to welcome you to Questrom this fall! I'd like to introduce you to Professor Cathy Fazio, Lecturer of Strategy and Innovation, who is the new Faculty Director for the MBA Program. Cathy will take over my role as I am moving into a position that oversees all our residential graduate programs. In this role, Cathy is responsible for strategic oversight of our MBA programs and ensuring the quality of the academic experience. You can reach Cathy at cfazio@bu.edu. She looks forward to engaging with you during Launch and beyond.

I know many of you are anxious for more details about the fall semester. As you have heard, Boston University will be implementing extensive procedures to ensure the safety of the students, faculty and staff on campus this fall. For details, please refer to the [Back2BU Graduate and Professional Students Guide](#), as well as the recent letter from Provosts Elmore and Kleinman on quarantine, isolation and testing protocols, summarized in this [BU Today article](#). We will continue to update you as we learn more about safety protocols. While these are obviously important parts of our return to campus, they are not the main focus of my communication today.

What I want to share with you today is our plans for **Learn from Anywhere (LfA)** for this Fall. The LfA model accommodates you whether you choose to participate in person in Boston, or you decide to learn remotely from Boston or anywhere in the world. Irrespective of the learning modality you select for Fall 2020, your Questrom faculty and the members of our Questrom student services are committed to delivering a fulfilling experience and a supportive learning environment for all students. We understand that many of you are in the process of finalizing plans for the fall semester. Thus, we hope the following information provides additional and valuable details.

- Due to social distancing guidelines, most Hariri classroom capacities are limited to about 12-18 students. Therefore, Boston-based students in the **in-person LfA format** will attend class on a rotation. Depending on the size of the class, the proportion of you who decide to engage 100% remote, and the classroom adjusted capacity, you will most likely attend every 2nd or 3rd class session.
- For Mod 1 (the first 7 weeks of the semester), you should expect to be in the classroom about 1-2 days per week. One of your Mod 1 classes (PL727: Organizations, Markets, and Society) will be held in a 100% remote format, while the remaining classes will be held in the LfA format. In order to make classes available to students regardless of time zone, we are using a Monday through Saturday schedule. Discussion sections for each class are scheduled between 8:00 AM to 12:30 PM on Monday through Friday, so that all students should be able to participate live. Faculty will also offer two 100% remote lecture sessions each week. These sessions will be held on T/TH afternoon and on Saturday mornings. While you are encouraged to participate in these sessions live, they will be recorded and available to watch on your own time, along with some asynchronous lectures. Finally, faculty and TAs will hold weekly optional review sessions and office hours. You will receive more information about the Mod 1 schedule during launch.

- You can move back and forth between modes—that is, you might decide to attend in-class and then switch to the remote format throughout the semester. We have developed an app that will allow you to check your rotation, indicate your preference for attendance, and sign up for available seats.
- Instructors will be in the classroom and will be assisted by a TA or a moderator in order to fully include the remote and in-person learners into one single learning community in each session.
- We have added monitors to the front of every classroom in Hariri so that students in the class can see those participating remotely. In addition, we have added cameras so that the students participating remotely have views of the in-class students and instructor.
- In-person participants will need to bring a laptop and headphones/mic to class in order to participate in break-out groups with the remote students.
- Faculty will be available for in-person meetings by appointment and will hold regular office hours via Zoom.
- Likewise, the advising and career teams will be available to meet in-person or remotely via Zoom.
- Exams will be administered remotely.
- We expect Starbucks and Breadwinners will be open during the week for take-out/mobile ordering, with limited seating. Because everyone must wear a mask during class, no eating will be permitted in the classroom. Beverages are allowed with a straw. Please plan accordingly.
- Team rooms will be open, but to maintain social distancing most will be limited to a capacity of one or two people. In addition to the existing team rooms, we are exploring adding meeting space capacity that could hold 4-6 people.
- There will be some limited lounge space for MBA students available on the 4th floor and the Graduate Lounge on the 3rd floor will be open with limited capacity.
- We also expect the Pardee Management Library to be open, with additional limited space for studying and meeting.
- You will see increased signage on how to safely navigate our building, including directional signs to maintain stairway traffic, capacity limitations on elevators, and areas to queue for student service appointments. We appreciate your cooperation with all posted signs and new policies, as it takes the full participation of our community to stay safe.

Our faculty and staff are working hard to prepare for the fall semester. For example, we have implemented a coaching system to guide faculty in adjusting to the LfA format and will be running numerous practice sessions. We also plan to hold tech training sessions for students. Second year MBA student Lauren Zimmerman serves on our LfA Task Force and has been a valuable contributor to our planning process. You should expect to hear from your faculty soon and Cathy and I will continue to update you during August.

Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions at bickart@bu.edu. We look forward to your return in a few weeks and are excited to welcome you [Back2Questrom](#).

Very Best,
Barb

Barbara Bickart

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