

Guidelines for Undergraduates doing work in research facilities and spaces at FAU (9-3-20)

As the FAU campuses reopens for the 2020 Fall Semester, undergraduates and their faculty mentors need to be aware of additional protocols and requirements for students working in research facilities and areas. Research facilities include but are not limited to laboratories, common core facilities, instrument or research work rooms, creative spaces, interview rooms, and other areas where faculty mentored undergraduate research occurs.

Working with Undergraduate Researchers and Scholars: Undergraduate students are allowed to re-engage in faculty-mentored research using research facilities during the fall semester as needed, [as per the Office of the Provost and the Division of Research](#). The following provides a list of guidelines for faculty to consider.

1. Faculty must ensure that their research spaces and occupants comply with all university guidelines and public health and safety guidelines during the pandemic, including for example maintaining social distancing (6 feet), reduced density in labs, and wearing face coverings at all times. If assistance is needed with implementation of the health and safety measures, contact EH&S.
2. Faculty should also ensure that population density is kept to a minimum (as per EHS guidelines) and make decisions on research facilities accessibility for staff and students. This may involve:
 - a. Expanding accessibility of research space hours to accommodate different shifts for students. Faculty will need to consider additional security concerns such as building access.
 - b. Where necessary, prioritizing students who require research for degree completion such as undergraduate honors students, graduate students, and paid undergraduates for access
 - c. Providing alternative virtual projects for students who may not be able to participate in-person
 - d. Communicating with Department chairs and building coordinators, names of staff and students who are working in their research facilities for critical communication within programs.

Additional considerations

- We are asking faculty to be as flexible as possible if there are barriers related to in-person or virtual undergraduate student participation in research (e.g. travel limitations for those out of the state/ country, their concerns re coming on campus, health circumstances, limited access to internet or software, etc.).
- Faculty who can't accommodate in-person research mentorship, should also consider providing alternative assignments and virtual mentoring. We have created a best-practices resource guide to facilitate faculty mentored undergraduate research during COVID-19. This guide can be found here: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1s-5d1EC-3NDgjpD_5yWbTj-meZPn80jlRrKBJeAKCw/edit?pli=1 (submit for permission request)
- Faculty who mentor students doing group projects should consider providing additional guidelines and alternative assignments to minimize in-person contact between the team members.

OURI Support for Faculty and Undergraduate scholars <https://www.fau.edu/our/>

1. **OURI Faculty, Staff and Peer mentor availability:** The OURI team will be available for virtual appointments, and by phone and email. OURI Peer Mentors will also be available via e-mail and through office-hours for online mentoring.
2. **All workshops and student meetings will occur virtually.** OURI will host various live workshops through Zoom. Information will be distributed through our website and through social media. Additionally, OURIs workshops are also available online through a canvas site. We encourage students to register for the OURI Canvas Course to gain access to these online workshops by e-mailing ourifau.edu.

As always OURI is here to support you. Feel free to email or call us with any questions you may have.

Steps for Faculty to Re-engage Undergraduates in Research

Evaluate in-person capacity of your research facility. Review BOG reopening plan and Research engagement plan

Make decisions on research facility availability to staff and students (grad and undergrad)

Notify students via email and establish a working schedule for research space hours

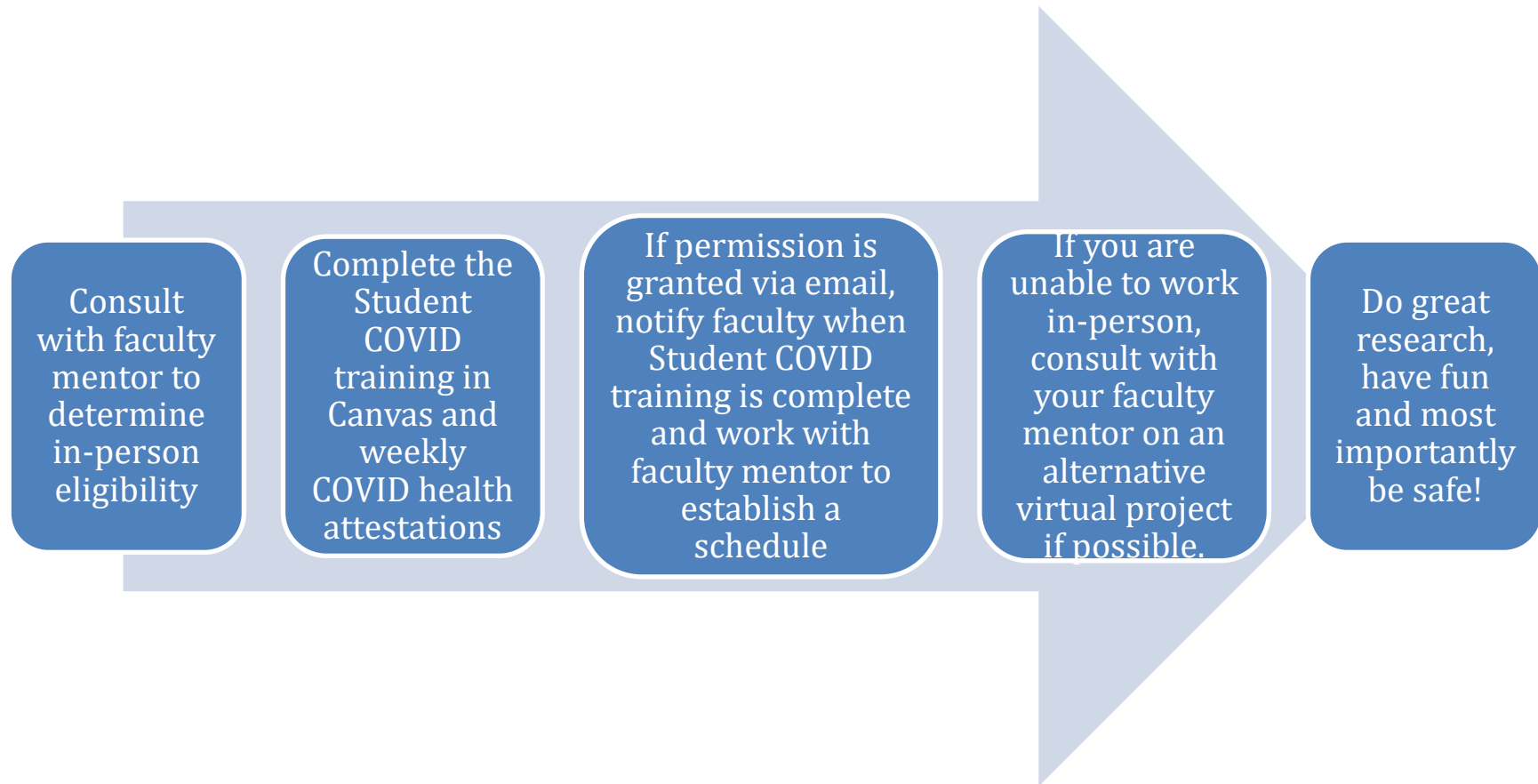
Make alternative plans to engage students in research who will be working virtually

Notify Department Chairs/program directors with a list of students who will be using research space.

BOG Reopening plan: <https://www.fau.edu/coronavirus/documents/fau-fall-2020-semester-plan.pdf>

Division of Research Re-engagement plan: <http://www.fau.edu/research/COVID-19-FAQs.php>

Steps for Undergraduate Students to Return to Research



University-wide Coronavirus (COVID-19) Updates: <http://www.fau.edu/coronavirus/>

Office of the Provost: <https://www.fau.edu/provost/covid-19.php>