

## COVID-19 Student FAQ Guide

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## CONTINGENCY SCHEDULES

### ***When is the end of the semester?***

- The last day of CFA and MFA spring 2020 classes is May 11.
- MFA second-years will graduate after final Thesis II Critiques. We are developing a plan to offer multiple options to fulfill the Thesis Critique requirement including dates in May and later in the summer as well as online submission to receive written feedback from the Critique Panel.
- Email Katie Hemmer [khemmer@nyaa.edu](mailto:khemmer@nyaa.edu) should you have questions.

### ***When will the class of 2021 be able to register for classes?***

- Registration for fall classes and Thesis Advisors will happen online in early June.
- We are in the process of developing the class schedule for the 2020-2021 Academic Year. Once finalized, the schedule will be emailed to all students and posted on the Academy's website.
- Check the registration page for more details and updates. [nyaa.edu/registration](http://nyaa.edu/registration)

### ***When will the class of 2021 make their Advisor selection? Could they have contact with their Advisors before the start of the fall semester if there is no summer programming?***

- Students will select their Thesis Advisors during the fall 2020 class registration process. [nyaa.edu/registration](http://nyaa.edu/registration)
- First-year students should be signing up for Wednesday critiques with Faculty Advisors to get to know them. We will also investigate other opportunities for first-year students to connect with Advisors before registration.

### ***Will the six weeks of studio time be instructed?***

- No. Summer studio time is aimed to give students the time, facilities and models missed during the shelter-in-place. However, critiques with some faculty and visiting critics will be available throughout the summer. We are working to schedule select workshops, demos and other professional development opportunities to supplement the online learning experience.

***What are the contingency plans for summer programming and fall start dates?***• **MFA Contingency Schedules by start date****June 1 Reopen**

Final Thesis Critiques	July 14 – July 16
Class of 2020 Completion Date	July 16
Thesis Exhibition Opening	July 16
Class of 2020 Commencement Ceremony	TBD
Class of 2021 will move into their second-year studios July 20 and continue through fall	

**June 15 Reopen**

Final Thesis Critiques	July 28 - July 30
Class of 2020 Completion Date	July 30
Thesis Exhibition Opening	July 30
Class of 2020 Commencement Ceremony	TBD
Class of 2021 will move into their second-year studios August 3 and continue through fall	

**June 29 Reopen**

Final critiques	August 11 – August 13
Class of 2020 Completion Date	August 13
Thesis Exhibition Opening	August 13
Class of 2020 Commencement Ceremony	TBD
Class of 2021 will move into their second-year studios August 13 and continue through fall	

• **CFA Contingency Schedules by start date****June 1 Reopen**

Final Critiques	August 19
End of Semester	August 19
CFA Final Exhibition Opening	August 20
Commencement Ceremony	August 20

**June 15 Reopen**

Final Critiques	August 26
End of Semester	August 26
CFA Final Exhibition Opening	August 27
Commencement Ceremony	August 27

**June 29 Reopen**

Final Critiques	September 9
End of Semester	September 9
CFA Final Exhibition Opening	September 10
Commencement Ceremony	September 10

## **CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES**

***Can classes like “Man & Beast”, printmaking, sculpture or anatomy be replaced with something during the summer?***

- Yes. We are working to schedule extra-curricular workshops and access to the printshop and other resources to supplement online learning including working from live animals, the specimen collection, and anatomy, casting and other sculpture demos.

***Will sculptors be able to return to Compleat Sculptor to finish projects?***

- We are investigating this possibility. It will depend on guidelines set by federal and state authorities.

## EXTRA-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

### ***Will the lost opportunities afforded to students at Tribeca Ball and Open Studios be replaced by some other experience?***

- Student work is currently featured in the 2020 Tribeca Ball exhibition. As of May 4, 114 works sold, and 469 total pieces are on view. [Tribeca Ball Student Work](#)
- We are planning to feature MFA 2020 in exhibitions in the Franklins Street gallery during the 2020-2021 academic year.
- We plan to feature MFA 2020 work at Tribeca Ball 2021.
- Gallerists are already confirmed for portfolio reviews this summer. We hope to have them in-person and online to give students the opportunity to receive feedback from art world professionals.

### ***What is happening with residencies and residency studio grading for the class of 2021?***

- Travel restrictions and uncertainties surrounding world health and the progression of the pandemic prevent us from sending students abroad this summer. We are discussing scenarios and assessing the possibility of offering additional residency spots in summer 2021 for the MFA classes of 2021 and 2022.
- Studio grading would occur next spring in a two-part process for the MFA classes of 2021 and 2022.

## **FACILITIES**

### ***Would the Academy offer access to the printshop and woodshop in the fall for the class of 2020?***

- The printshop is open to alumni on weekends and we are looking into a similar schedule for the woodshop.

### ***Can the class of 2020 come back for Master Classes?***

- Yes. We'd like to offer graduated students the chance to come back for an in-person Master Class.

### ***Will the Library be open?***

- Yes. The Library will be open to CFA and MFA students. Health and safety precautions will be put into action to ensure compliance with social distancing and other requirements.

## **FACULTY**

### ***Who will be the Sculpture Director during the summer and in the fall?***

- Nina Levy will be the Interim Director of Sculpture for the 2020-2021 academic year.

### ***Are faculty coming back this summer?***

- So far, some faculty have expressed they are available this summer. We will continue updating students as we learn who will be free this summer for possible critiques, lectures, and workshops.

## FINANCIAL CONCERNS

### ***If the Academy is financially sound, why can't students receive a refund?***

- The Academy has made deep cuts to the institutional budget and has navigated difficult decisions to ensure the financial solvency of the institution now and into the future.
- Whether in-person or online, the Academy's teaching expenses are nearly identical in delivering our unique education. Additional opportunities beyond what is normally offered in the programs are being scheduled during online learning and will continue during the summer and into the 2020-2021 academic year.

### ***Can students receive a refund or tuition reduction for fall 2020 for the portion that covers the cost of studio space and model fees for the spring 2020 period starting March 23?***

- Many other MFA programs use studio rental and facility access to justify their tuition and fees. The Academy's tuition and fees are based on its unique structure and highly instructed curriculum.
- We are working to schedule additional model time, facility access and programming during the summer and 2020-2021 academic year to make up for lost opportunities during the online learning period.
- Our priority has been to schedule additional student programming that fulfills the academic and extra-curricular opportunities you've come to expect from the Academy.

### ***Some students are considering deferring until fall 2021.***

- Students who want to finish this spring and come back for their second year in 2021-2022 have the option to take a leave of absence.
- Email Katie Hemmer [khemmer@nyaa.edu](mailto:khemmer@nyaa.edu) for more information.

### ***If a student has chosen to leave the state or country, will they be compensated for the missing studio time?***

- We are offering accommodations over the summer. It's up to each student to decide whether or not they will take advantage of the additional opportunities.
- The printshop will continue to be available to alumni and we are assessing the schedule in the hope of offering increased hours.
- We are exploring the possibility of offering access to the woodshop to the class of 2020 during the 2020-2021 academic year.



***Will existing scholarships carryover if we defer?***

- Merit scholarships are renewable based on academic progress. Students who maintain a culminating GPA of 3.0 and above will retain their scholarships for the 2020-2021 academic year.

***What is the last date to submit a Leave of Absence request?***

- There is no deadline to submit a leave of absence request. Students should do so as soon as they know they would like to take leave. Written requests should be submitted using the Academy's request form. Email Katie Hemmer [khemmer@nyaa.edu](mailto:khemmer@nyaa.edu) with questions.

## GRADING & COURSE EVALUATIONS

### *How will grading and course evaluations work for the spring semester?*

- Faculty will submit final grades for each student in each course.
- Accommodations will be made to reflect the varied access to materials and other difficulties encountered during the online learning experience.
- Course evaluations are being modified to allow students to comment on the online learning experience during COVID-19.

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

### ***What is the Academy doing for International students concerned about border closures?***

- The Academy is monitoring developments and urges all students to take extra precautions when traveling.
- International students should email Katie Hemmer [khemmer@nyaa.edu](mailto:khemmer@nyaa.edu) or Sarah Sager [ssager@nyaa.edu](mailto:ssager@nyaa.edu) to ensure they have the necessary documents and signatures before traveling.

### ***Will visas be extended if the current academic year gets extended?***

- In the event that all graduation requirements are not met by August 30 2020, international students will need to request a program extension on their I-20 forms. The Academy's DSO team will facilitate these requests.
- Email Katie Hemmer [khemmer@nyaa.edu](mailto:khemmer@nyaa.edu) or Sarah Sager [ssager@nyaa.edu](mailto:ssager@nyaa.edu) for more details.

## ONLINE CLASSROOMS

### ***Why are students turning off their screens in virtual classrooms?***

- This is triggered by fatigue, but students agree that this results in missed opportunities to respond to the professors in real time, and the chance to share and interact with our classmates.
- To promote the type of quality learning and engagement achieved in a live-classroom environment, we encourage students to leave their video function turned on for important class discussions and lectures. The need to take virtual breaks and rest your eyes is a real one, and should be healthily proportioned over the class' duration, with consideration to remain visibly engaged and available when the content requires. Faculty will encourage this.

### ***How can the Academy resolve the wide variability in the new contact hours and the effectiveness of online lesson plans?***

- Faculty has been working to avoid burnout from long lectures, but most classes are still running on their entire allotted time. We are aiming for a balance of contact hours and rest.

### ***Students are happy to pay for the opportunities and the learning we have received since spring break, but online opportunities and classes are not equal to what we originally paid for. What can be done?***

- Though the delivery method for learning has changed in the last five weeks, the content, preparation, and availability of the faculty members has remained consistent and, in many cases, increased.
- The transition to online learning was rapid and impacted every class, professor and student. We know it has affected some more than others. We plan to offset this with additional model time and select workshops this summer to supplement online learning with the in-person experience.

### ***There are rumors that the Academy will be going online permanently, is this true?***

- No. The Academy is proud of its in-person instruction and opportunities. We are working to ensure in-person instruction can resume during the 2020-2021 academic year in as safe an environment as possible.

### ***Weekly Critiques and sign-ups have worked well online. Can they continue past this period of online learning?***

- Yes. We plan to continue the online sign-ups as they have made the process easier for the majority of students. We plan to continue the additional Visiting Critics especially if they are out of town.

## SAFETY & HEALTH

### ***If students have underlying health issues should they request a leave of absence?***

- Students may submit a leave of absence for medical reasons. Written requests should be submitted using the Academy's request form. Email [khemmer@nyaa.edu](mailto:khemmer@nyaa.edu) with questions.

### ***Will the Academy be testing students for COVID-19 and taking temperatures of people as they enter the building?***

- The Academy is looking into the available options for taking temperatures of students and testing for COVID-19.

### ***How will elevator capacity/safety be handled?***

- The elevator will be limited to four students at a time and people will be encouraged to take the stairs whenever possible. Everyone should wear masks in the elevator and in the hallways.

### ***How will the Academy prevent sick students from coming to school?***

- The Academy will ask anyone who knows they are sick (whether students, faculty, or staff) not to enter the building.

### ***If the school is able to reopen in the fall but the pandemic is still a concern, what happens if I don't want to use public transportation?***

- We are assessing the feasibility of offering other transportation including CitiBike memberships and/or private shuttle bus service.

***What steps are you taking to ensure the health of our community once we are back in the building?***

- The Academy is implementing many protective measures to ensure the health and safety of students on campus. Processes and procedures include:
  - Offering personal protective gear
  - Keeping the school closed to general public for summer
  - Reducing building hours temporarily
  - Closing lounge and gathering areas temporarily
  - Scheduling access to the library and studios to reduce population density
  - Installing Plexiglas shields at front desk and in the library
  - Posting visible restroom and sink disinfecting log  
and ensure social distancing practices
  - Increasing safety signage all over the school
  - Published emergency plan in the event of an outbreak
  - Logging health issues to track students, staff and faculty
  - Removing water fountains temporarily

## STUDIOS

### *How will studio selection for next year take place?*

- The studio lottery will take place online. Returning students will be able to move into their second-year studio spaces this summer after final Thesis Critiques when graduating students move out.

### *How can students who have already left get their materials from their studios?*

- Michael Smith is accepting specific requests to retrieve materials from school and has been arranging drop offs. Email Michael [msmith@nyaa.edu](mailto:msmith@nyaa.edu) with requests and to discuss other options.

## **THESIS II FINAL CRITIQUES**

***When will Thesis II Final Critiques take place? Is the Academy willing to offer early online Thesis Critiques, and what would virtual Critiques look like?***

- We hope to offer multiple options for format and timing of Thesis II Final Critiques in order to accommodate the health, safety, travel and financial needs of all students. We will release details as they are confirmed.

***Are the Critiques online or in person?***

- We are working towards in-person, online and hybrid options for the Critiques.

***Can the class of 2020 graduate before having their Thesis Critiques?***

- Thesis Critiques are a requirement for graduation. We are working to schedule multiple options for format and timing of Thesis II Final Critiques to accommodate the health, safety, travel and financial needs of all students. More details will be released as soon as they become available.