

Returning Student FAQs

COVID-19 thought it was strong, but it has underestimated the will of the Warrior.

COVID-19

1. When can Westmont have in-person learning so we can return to campus?

Westmont is planning to repopulate and provide in-person learning on Monday, September 28. Remote learning begins on Monday, August 31.

2. Will Westmont require COVID-19 testing in the fall?

Yes, testing will be conducted, and you'll receive more information as we learn about all the options that meet county guidelines prior to repopulating.

3. How will Westmont enforce wearing face coverings or masks, social distancing and avoiding large groups of students when we're on campus?

We urge and encourage everyone to practice all the safety protocols required by the state and county to keep every member of our community safe and healthy. We want to be responsible citizens as we engage with local Santa Barbara residents and our neighbors.

4. Do students have to wear a mask at all times?

Yes. Please review the Student Life safety information on the [COVID-19 website](#). You'll have some flexibility within your pod, which includes your residence hall room and roommate.

5. Whom can I contact with questions about my COVID-19 concerns?

Please contact Jason Tavarez, our director of institutional resilience, at jtavarez@westmont.edu. View a special [video message](#) from him addressing safety protocols and concerns related to the pandemic.

Academics, Classes and Textbooks

6. When is the first day of class when remote learning officially begins?

Remote classes start Monday, August 31. Please finalize your academic class schedules as soon as possible. Find information about class schedules by going to WebAdvisor or contacting the Registrar's Office at registrar@westmont.edu

7. What is Westmont doing to ensure that classes of all formats will be high-quality in the fall?

Our approach to teaching this fall will continue to prioritize the relational, residential education that is core to our mission as a Christian liberal arts college. For the health and safety of our community, we are making adjustments to our approaches to our relational education. As we prioritize the relational aspects of our educational philosophy, we will be especially mindful of the additional challenges our students are facing. Recognizing that with remote and hybrid instruction, and with the potential for increased stress and anxiety

created by the conditions of the pandemic, faculty and student support staff will continue to work closely to identify students who may be struggling. We'll make sure we connect them to the resources they may need.

8. What will student academic support (tutoring, academic advising) look like this fall?

Throughout the semester, we'll continue to provide all the key academic support services. Our student success efforts will continue, and we've hired some student success coaches. The Office of Disability Services and the Writers' Corner have arranged for remote appointments, the tutoring program will continue, and some remote tutoring sessions will occur. We've tried to align our tutoring opportunities with particular courses, especially in the general education program, but there'll be other opportunities for students who seek that assistance to get it. We're preparing for a remote beginning, but we want to make sure the first month is distinguished by a positive Westmont experience, and we look forward to serving you in this way.

9. Can students request pass/no pass grading options for remote learning?

The curriculum committee will review the pass/no credit option this fall once we know how long the period of remote learning will be.

10. How will online classes work with those in different time zones?

Faculty will be aware that students in different time zones will face some challenges engaging in classes remotely during sessions that occur synchronously, and they'll work with you to support you through those challenges. It won't always be possible to adjust lesson plans to accommodate your time zone, but stay in close communication with each of your professors about issues you're facing.

11. How will labs work? Will they still be offered online?

Labs will still be offered online. Since lab content and learning outcomes are so different between classes, you'll need to reach out to your individual instructors about their plans for the online portion of their lab. Some will be using online lab simulations and videos. Others will be conducting experiments themselves and students will be doing a lot of experimental design and data analysis. Still others will be analyzing and interpreting large data-sets generated by students from previous semesters.

12. How can I get my textbooks?

The bookstore will ship textbooks and packets of readings to all students at their homes. Students can also arrange in advance to pick up their books in person at the bookstore. Please contact the bookstore for more information at jgish@westmont.edu.

Financial Aid/Finance

13. Will Westmont provide discounted tuition for online classes?

Students will not be charged room and board for the weeks in which the college is unable to populate campus. To reflect this change on the student bills, the full semester's room and board charges will still be shown, and then a credit will be applied to reduce those charges for the number of weeks of remote education. The initial credit will reflect the four weeks between the start of the semester on August 31 and the intended repopulation date of September 28.

14. How will my financial aid reflect the change of going remote for four weeks?

Financial aid to students is awarded based on the total cost of attendance. With the cost of the fall semester now less than expected due to lower room and board charges, financial aid will also be adjusted to the extent that a student's costs are covered with gift aid. In no instance will financial aid be reduced more than the amount of the reduction in the room and board charges, and in nearly every case, students will pay less for the fall semester. The adjustments to the room and board charges and financial aid will be complete and available for you to see on your bill online by the end of the day on Tuesday, August 18.

15. Will the meal plan be prorated for the time that we are not on campus?

Yes, room and board costs will be adjusted for the weeks remote learning will take place. Students should check their student account for specific adjustments and reach out to Financial Aid if there are questions.

16. Will Sodexo deliver food to those living off campus if they want to continue on the meal plan?

Off-campus students may not participate in meal plans. Please contact housing@westmont.edu for specific information on your housing questions and the services available to students living off campus.

Housing

17. If I want to live off campus can I petition to do so?

Yes, you can. Please contact housing@westmont.edu as soon as possible.

18. Will students living off campus be able to move into their apartments/hotel rooms and do remote education from there? What does this mean for housing payments?

Yes, remote learning is accessible anywhere you reside. Students not living in Westmont housing will not be charged room and board costs.

19. What if I'm not comfortable coming back to campus?

Please connect with the Provost's Office to learn about your options related to remote learning at provost@westmont.edu.

20. What happens if we return to campus in September but have to move back home later in the semester due to COVID-19 cases on campus? This would cause a financial strain for me.

We understand the pandemic poses many unknown challenges and real financial concerns. Please stay in close contact with the college, your advisors, Student Life staff and others at Westmont to stay informed and to seek assistance however you may need it.

21. What can international students expect to do for housing?

Westmont will provide housing for all international students. Please contact Sarah Sagredo in Student Life with specific questions about services, support and information.