

Friday, March 20, 2020

Dear CS and IT students,

Just a quick update about the current situation:

Since 5pm today, the campus is in what has been termed "full-time remote" operation. This means that the university is still operating as best as possible, but with almost all students, staff, and faculty operating from their homes. Only essential personnel are granted regular access to campus. For our department, these are only our system staff members, one of whom will usually be on-site during work hours. If possible, we will further reduce their schedule.

Graduate students conducting research may receive permission to enter the CS space on individual occasions in order to fix something on-site, reboot a computer, etc. If you need one-time access for a research-related reason, please discuss this with your research advisor, and we will request permission if it is absolutely necessary for keeping your research going. Undergraduate students will not be admitted to our building.

As usual, you can contact Debbie Wade (debbie.wade@umb.edu) and Gemma Galecia (Gemma.Galecia@umb.edu) for assistance; they will be able to help you via email. Faculty members can also be reached via email and will hold office hours in some form (email, phone, Skype, Zoom, etc.). CS undergraduate majors who need their advising hold removed should contact the SSC

https://www.umb.edu/academics/csm/student_success_center

unless they have specific questions about course contents, career advice, etc., which are best answered by their faculty advisor. This is a new procedure that is intended to make advising more efficient. International students with concerns about their status, travel advice, etc. should contact their advisor at the ISSO.

As I noted before, my colleagues and I are working on taking our teaching online, which is the first time for most of us, so please bear with us while we are getting this to work smoothly. Contact your instructor with any questions or concerns that you may have. Both faculty and administration are aware that some of you will have a hard time at performing well academically under the given circumstances this semester. We are working on policies that will account for the general situation as well as for individual students' hardships. These policies will be announced once they have been finalized and approved.

I will update you with important developments that are not covered by official announcements to the UMB community.

Best wishes,
Marc Pomplun