

Admission Response to COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

What options do I have for enrolling in the Gies MSTM-Advancement Track Program?

There are three options available to you. You will need to choose one of these, and you *will be able* to change your decision if needed to accommodate your specific circumstances. Here are the options:

Option 1- Start the program in fall as planned.

Option 2- Defer enrollment to the Spring 2021 semester and begin classes on January 19, 2021. (see specific FAQs for this option below)

Option 3- Defer enrollment to 2021-22 academic year.

How do I let you know which option I want to pursue?

Please complete and submit [this form](#) based on the dates in the answer above.

When do I need to make a decision and pay deposit for the option I have chosen?

All students will need to decide no later than August 1, 2020. If you are an international candidate requiring a visa, we recommended you decide **as soon as possible** so you can start the visa process. We do understand that this may not be an easy decision considering the great deal of uncertainty surrounding COVID-19. For those who want to start as planned this fall, **you must do the following by June 15**: Complete and submit [this form](#), and, if you haven't yet, accept your offer via the link in your offer letter and pay your deposit. If your circumstances change and you aren't able to come in the fall, we will work with you on another option.

If you want to defer to Spring 2021 or the 2021-22 academic year, you'll need to accept your offer and complete and submit [this form](#) by August 1, 2020. **You do not need to pay your deposit at this time.** We will let you know when your deposit will be due.

What if I need to change my option after submitting this form?

Email Katrina Hagler at kkappes2@illinois.edu to let her know.

Can I get a refund of my deposit if I paid it for fall start and want to defer to Spring 2021 or the 2021-22 academic year?

Yes, we will refund your deposit. Simply email Katrina Hagler at kkappes2@illinois.edu requesting a refund and she will take care of it. We will email you in the fall letting you know the new deadline to pay the deposit for a future term.

If I choose to defer to the Spring 2021 or 2021-22 academic year, do I need to resubmit funding documents (for international students only)?

Funding documentation must be dated within one year of the proposed term of entry. If your funding documents will be outdated as a result of deferring admission, we will reach out to you after your updated admission letter is issued to let you know when we will need updated materials.

If I decide on the Spring 2021 or 2021-22 academic year option, when do I need to pay my deposit?

If you want to defer to Spring 2021 or the 2021-22 academic year, you'll need to accept your offer and complete and submit [this form](#) by August 1, 2020. You do not need to pay your deposit at this time. We will let you know this fall when your deposit will be due.

Will starting in spring term impact my access to career services?

No, as a full-time student you have access to one-on-one advising, career programming, and online resources. After you complete Career Management Foundations Course (information provided once you pay your deposit) and arrive on campus, you can begin working with your career advisor.

Will I qualify for CPT/OPT if I choose to start in Spring 2021? (for international students)

Due to the mid-academic-year start, international students will not qualify for CPT per current federal guidelines. However, international students will qualify for OPT at the end of their degree, since they will have completed the required two full semesters.

If I start in the spring, could I still get an internship for the summer semester?

Yes, there will still be an option for students to substitute an internship in place of the summer coursework as long as the internship fits the requirements of the Internship course. International students, however, will not have CPT certification. They will not be able to do an internship in the states – only in their home country.

What will the class schedule look like for a spring start?

You can find a tentative course schedule [HERE](#). Essentially you will join the same courses that are already being offered in the spring semester.

When will I graduate if I start in Spring 2021?

You will graduate in December 2021.

Can I extend my program to include another semester?

Yes, you can add an additional semester if you would like. You do not need to determine that at this time. Once you are on campus, you can talk with your academic advisor to create a schedule to accommodate that. Keep in mind that adding an additional semester to your program will require an additional semester of tuition and fees.