



MICC College Program COVID-19 Off Campus FAQ

Am I allowed to go off campus?

Yes.

When am I allowed to go off campus?

When you are not attending class or expected to be at a social activity, you may choose how you spend your time. Participants are expected to be in their apartments by 9:45pm Sunday-Thursday and 10:15pm Friday-Saturday.

Where am I allowed to go?

Participants can freely choose where they go off campus, provided they follow COVID-19 laws and guidelines. MICC recommends limiting travel off campus as much as possible. Buses have reduced capacity and are for essential trips only. Most stores and restaurants are open, but participants must wear masks when indoors in a public social setting. Participants are encouraged to walk at Donaldson Park and in nearby neighborhoods and sidewalks to get fresh air.

Why is MICC allowing participants to go off campus?

Many participants have medications and other personal care products that they need to pick up on their own. Additionally, many participants have regular therapy or doctor's appointments for managing their health. During these pandemic times, getting outside for fresh air at a park or while walking around a neighborhood is essential for mental health. MICC understands the important role that off campus experiences play in promoting independent and healthy lifestyles. We believe that part of our responsibility this year includes teaching participants how to safely go off campus while protecting their own health and the health of the entire MICC community.

Is it safe to go off campus?

While MICC cannot guarantee the safety of participants when they are off campus on their own, education on community safety is a huge part of the curriculum. Participants will learn how to safely wear a mask, when to wear one,

how to keep social distance, when and how to sanitize their hands, and more. Participants also learn and are encouraged to practice safety in the community by going places with at least one peer, returning to campus before dark, and seeking help from designated helpers (store employees, bus drivers, police, MICC staff).

Can I use public transportation or other forms of transportation to go off campus?

Yes, with limitations. Metro Transit is currently limiting bus and train usage to essential trips only, and with reduced capacity for each bus. Participants are encouraged to NOT use public transportation until they have received education in their transportation classes on how to safely ride the bus with the new COVID-19 regulations.

Are there specific rules or requirements I need to follow if I go off campus?

Participants represent MICC when off campus. They are expected to comply with all local laws and regulations related to COVID-19. Participants should wear masks when indoors at a store, restaurant, or other public social setting. Participants should maintain 6-foot social distance from other people when in public.

Do I still sign out and in of the student center to go off campus?

Yes. It is especially important during COVID-19 that you sign out before leaving campus, and that you sign back in when you return. The sign in/out process includes where you are going and your estimated return time.

What will grocery shopping look like?

Participants will grocery shop with their roommates, to keep group sizes small and safe. They will learn how to safely navigate grocery stores while following COVID-19 precautions. Participants will learn about online grocery shopping and curbside delivery, although classes will use in-person shopping at this time.

What if a participant is uncomfortable being off campus to grocery shop?

Participants will receive extensive education on how to keep themselves and the whole community safe while off campus. MICC believes it is important for participants to know how to navigate their world during COVID-19. If a participant has an underlying medical condition, they can talk with MICC staff about accommodations to ensure safety while off campus. If necessary, the participant can work with instructors to design an alternative grocery plan.

What if a senior is unable or uncomfortable with finding a job because of COVID-19?

Each senior will develop an individualized plan with their Job Developer at the beginning of the year to set their personal goals and boundaries for finding a job. They can choose the timeline they wish to follow.

What will transportation class look like?

Transportation class will look different for each grade. Freshmen initially focus on learning how to navigate by foot and getting comfortable with MICC's neighborhood. Seniors focus on developing individual plans for transportation to their needed off campus sites. All grade levels will learn about new Metro Transit guidelines in order to safely ride buses. Some classes may take place on public transportation when safe to do so.

What will social activities look like?

Socials will occur with a hybrid model. Some socials will be virtual, some on campus, and some off campus. Off campus socials could include outdoor parks and spaces where participants can safely maintain social distance.

What will practicum look like for juniors?

Juniors will still have off campus practicum sites and will be supported in getting to/from these sites safely. They will learn how to follow the COVID-19 guidelines at any off-campus sites.