

The cooler temperatures of fall are finally upon us and the holidays are just around the corner. Our policies surrounding Thanksgiving have not changed since the [initial announcement](#) about the fall semester was released, but it is a good time to remind everyone about plans for Thanksgiving week and post-Thanksgiving.

While we realize some students are requesting to “go online” for the week of Thanksgiving or not return for in-person instruction after the break, neither is part of GCU’s academic strategy moving forward. Student and faculty face-to-face interaction is critical at this point in a hybrid model of instruction that also included three weeks of online instruction to start the semester.

### **Thanksgiving week**

In-person classes will take place Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday (Nov. 23-25) before the Thanksgiving holiday is observed on Nov. 26-27. No instructor is permitted to cancel face-to-face instruction that week and replace it with remote learning.

Students also will not receive participation points if they are not in class that week and are expected to complete all assignments.

The traditional Thanksgiving break was shortened this semester to promote student and faculty safety and maximize teaching and learning during an adjusted semester schedule due to COVID-19.

### **Post-Thanksgiving**

Students are required to resume face-to-face instruction the week of Nov. 30 and continue through the end of the semester on Dec. 18.

Some universities that started their semesters earlier are transitioning to an online modality after Thanksgiving. This option is not a consideration at GCU given that we began the semester later with three weeks of online instruction in order to avoid the surge in COVID cases that occurred in Arizona at the end of the summer.

A recent [US Department of Defense study](#) indicates that the risk of coronavirus transmission during air travel is low. However, we are strongly encouraging students to remain on campus and avoid travel to other parts of the country during the shortened Thanksgiving break. If students do leave campus during the break, we encourage them to take a COVID test at the GCU Health and Wellness Clinic upon their return.

### **Veterans Day**

As a reminder, classes will be held on Veterans Day (Wednesday, Nov. 11) in order to complete the semester by Dec. 18.