



ALABAMA SCHOOL OF CYBER TECHNOLOGY AND ENGINEERING

Frequently Asked Questions

ACADEMICS

If ASCTE can't open to in-person learning on August 17, will there be a virtual learning option or a hybrid model like most other schools?

- ASCTE made the determination to open August 17, following the guidance from multiple state officials in Montgomery and the [CDC](#). [Here is a letter from the CDC stating the importance of reopening school](#).
- ASCTE will not have a virtual option, but ASCTE faculty will have at the ready three weeks of online learning that will be implemented in the case of in-person school closure.

Do students need to bring laptops or computers?

- Students will be issued laptops that they are expected to use for school. Students may also opt to bring personal laptops or computers.

Is there a summer reading requirement?

- No

What will the class sizes be?

- We are dividing students into four teams; however, until registration is complete we will not have an accurate number of students in each class. We are trying to keep the class size around 20.

Wondering if the kids will be allowed to do dual enrollment as opposed to AP courses? Will DE be an option if not this year, then by senior year?

- ASCTE is exploring future Dual Enrollment options but specifically those that pertain to specific fields of cyber & engineering fields.

Will Driver Education be offered?

- ASCTE is exploring Driver Education as an enrichment course in the second half of this school year.

Where is Algebra II in the curriculum? If there is no Algebra II, how can a student go into Precalculus?

- The key concepts from traditional Algebra 2 curriculum will be embedded in the ASCTE MA201 Precalculus course. Much of the traditional precalculus course is a repeat of traditional Algebra 2 topics and many other traditional precalculus concepts are not in preparation of calculus. ASCTE MA201 Pre-Calculus is designed to be a prep course for MA301 Calculus.
- ASCTE understands students will have gaps in learning and is prepared to offer foundational support to those students.

Can we get a copy of the course descriptions?

- The ASCTE Academic Program Guide will be published by July 31.

How many hours a day do you expect the internships will be during their senior year? Are these expected to be full, 8 hour days?

- ASCTE will have a specialist to supervise internships, maintaining appropriate hours for students will be one of the areas managed.

Are ACCESS classes available for foreign language? Some Universities, such as Georgia Tech, require 2 years of a foreign language.

- Students will be able to take foreign language during the enrichment period using online Edgenuity-Odysseyware software purchased by ASCTE.

Have colleges and universities approved your 24 week core courses as acceptable for admissions? According to the ACT website, typical colleges expect students to take four years of English, three years of math with geometry and algebra, three years of science with biology, chemistry and physics, three years of social studies and even possibly four years in a foreign language and/or fine arts. If yes, what colleges?

- ASCTE based the length of courses using guidelines from the college board. As a reference point, many students in traditional schools on the block schedule complete courses in 18 weeks time.

Specifically which certification(s) are the students going to have as ASCTE graduates, (e.g. CySA+)? Will students be able to obtain a security clearance as 14-17 year olds?

- Certifications ASCTE seeks to support at a by-product of graduation and work experience are the CompTIA A+, CompTIA Security+, the Certified Associate in Project Management (CAPM) or Certified Junior Project Manager (IAPM) and the Certified SOLIDWORKS Associate in Mechanical Design. The progression of courses will prepare the student to take the tests as offered by the certifying body. Every SOLIDWORKS license includes testing for the certification, other certifications testing fees are strictly the responsibility of the student/family.
- The issuance of Government Security Clearances is strictly the purview of the Defense Security Service (DSS). As a general rule, clearances are not issued to anyone under the age of 21 unless serving in the military. ASCTE is working with the FBI and DSS to create alternate pathways for students to obtain a form of security clearance at an earlier age.

RESIDENTIAL

How are we going to guarantee safety in residential spaces?

- Oakwood University Campus Security closes the West Gate (normal entrance to the school) each evening and security is present at the main gate checking anyone who enters. ASCTE will not allow visitors unless prior authorized.
- ASCTE will also be implementing the [REACH App](#) for all students. REACH will help us keep track of all students while reducing risk and improving student care. Additional information about REACH is available at <https://reachboarding.com/> - We will provide ASCTE-specific information to you, your student, and any additional hosts in the coming weeks. You are more than welcome to explore the REACH website and reach out if you have any questions!

Do the renovations include plexiglass dividers for students?

- ~~Peterson Hall will not include plexiglass dividers between students in the same room. ASCTE will treat students who share a room like siblings in a regular school sharing a room. Peterson renovations include private bathrooms for each room. Additionally, students will be required to wear masks in all settings when groups of students are gathering in the residential hall (common rooms, laundry rooms, entryways, etc.) Social distancing will be encouraged by the single seat furniture made available to the students, and the residential building will have numerous hand sanitizing stations.~~

What precautions are taking place to protect students from COVID?

- Please [see the entry plan](#) to review the actions and precautions taken by ASCTE as our students join us for the fall.

I've noticed that some of the local students are staying on campus. How does that work? Is it still an option?

- Local students may submit a request to live on campus to Director of Residential Life, Jordan Bolte, at jordan.bolte@ascte.org
- Requests will be honored based on need and availability.

Will there be a lamp mounted on the walls? I am looking at purchasing a lamp and need to know if it should be floor or desk type?

- A desk lamp is only needed if a student prefers one. Desks will come equipped with lighting.

Do students need to bring laundry detergent and cleaning supplies?

- Yes, students will need to bring these items. Updates about [Dorm Life](#) can be found on our website.

Will students be able to keep medications such as Tylenol and Advil in dorm rooms?

- Yes students will have access to medication; however, a parent authorization form must be completed for all medication that a student will have whether prescribed or over the counter.

How many students per house?

- Every house has a slightly different floor plan than the other, but on average each house will have around 7 students.

How many students per room?

- Every student has one roommate. No student is in a triple room.

How many closets per room?

- One large closet per room.

Is there a place to store bikes?

- The houses are large enough that they should be able to store bikes inside. We additionally plan to purchase bike racks for the academic building.

Do residential students need dishes?

- The students will not need dishes for their meals provided by ASCTE (all normal meals - breakfast, lunch, and dinner) but we are not providing dishes or utensils in the houses. If your student would like to eat at other times (snacks, movies, etc) I would recommend bringing a plate and some utensils.

How many dressers, if any?

- Each room has two dressers - one for each student.

Do The Annex houses have windows/ need curtains?

- Windows come equipped with blinds, but do not have curtains. You are more than welcome to purchase blinds if you want.

Will college students be living on campus as well?

- Yes, Oakwood is holding in-person classes, but the area that we will be in is fairly isolated from the rest of campus. The road dead ends at our street and there is no reason Oakwood students should be up near the Annex houses. Additionally, Oakwood students have a curfew every night. I am very comfortable with my family and our students in the area we've been given.

Is it still twin XL beds?

- Yes! We ordered new mattresses and can confirm they are twin XL.

COVID-19

What additional steps is the school taking at this time, regarding COVID-19?

- Additional cleaning of common surfaces by faculty and staff will occur at regular intervals throughout the school day.
- Staff will implement a disinfectant protocol in addition to the regular cleaning.

- All faculty and staff are required to maintain appropriate hand washing and sanitizing protocols upon entering the building and throughout the day.

When should I keep my child home from school?

- If your child is ill, please follow the policies to email or call to report your student as absent - it will be excused. Do not send your child to school if you suspect he or she may be ill and has exhibited any of the following signs or symptoms:
 - An elevated temperature of 100° degrees or more during the last 24 hours
 - Vomiting/Repeated episodes of diarrhea within the last 24 hours
 - Chills, loss of appetite, unusual fatigue, and/or lingering headache
 - A significant amount of nasal discharge, particularly if the discharge is yellow or greenish in color
 - A persistent cough
 - A significant sore throat
 - An earache
 - If your child has been diagnosed with any serious communicable disease, you must notify the school so we can comply with reporting requirements.

What happens if my child feels sick while at school?

- If a student falls ill at school, parents will be called immediately and the student will be cared for until he or she can be picked up.
- ASCTE is partnering with Oakwood University Health Center and other local health professionals to provide care for students.

What can families, students, and school personnel do to keep from getting sick and spreading COVID-19?

- The CDC recommends the following preventive actions to help prevent the spread of COVID-19:
 - Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
 - If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water when your hands are visibly dirty.
 - Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
 - Stay home when you are sick (and do not return to school until you are fever-free for 48 hours without medication). We ask you to strictly adhere to this policy.
 - Cough or sneeze into your elbow or a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash and wash hands.

- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.

The levels are dependent on the percentage of students tested positive in a week. What is the turnaround time on testing? When will a student be required to test, when symptoms are shown, or after someone with whom they have been in contact tests positive? Could you explain the advantage of using the school population as the metric, and not the region or even the state??

- ASCTE will not test students. ASCTE will follow HIPPA and any testing decisions will be between the parent and child. Students will come from across the state, and ASCTE will have less than 80 students. This small school population allows ASCTE to track cases much more precisely than a large school or school system.

The current CDC recommendation is to quarantine if you've been exposed to someone with COVID-19. So, according to your plan, students will not quarantine until 20% or 15 kids in the school have a positive COVID-19 test. That number seems very high to me. At that point, the actual number of cases will certainly be much higher than 20%, given asymptomatic, presymptomatic cases and delays in testing.

- The definition of "exposure" is close contact less than 6 feet for more than 15 minutes. ASCTE deliberated with health professionals on this issue and determined that tracking the length and distance of every student interaction to determine "exposure" will be extremely difficult if not impossible. Therefore, ASCTE will limit opportunities for "exposure".

With moderate spread of 6-20% (4-14 students), the only difference that I see is daily temperature checks. ASCTE only has 75 kids. Can you elaborate on what will be done differently with "Enhanced Prevention" at level 2.

- One of our Guiding Principles is to be nimble in order to adapt to changing circumstances and make use of resources. ASCTE has purchased 15 temporal thermometers, and enhanced prevention could include multiple temperature checks, more aggressive isolation in movement of students and teaching styles.

Did you consider a hybrid school option? Allow the kids to come to school 2-2.5 days per week to allow for smaller classes?

- ASCTE will double in size next school year, so for the 2020-21 school year, the campus will operate at 50% of capacity. ASCTE took additional action by scheduling all classes to be no more than 20 students. Our schedule model will team students together, so they will only have classroom interaction with one group of students. This allows for better oversight of classroom size, interaction, instructional movement, and social destining.

What will the process be in the event the school needs to close? What preparations/plans have you made for this?

- Please see the [Entry Plan](#) for Substantial Spread
 - Transition to virtual learning for all students
 - Return to school in 14 calendar days
 - Follow state and local ordinances

Will parents be notified when a student, teacher, or staff member has been exposed to or infected with COVID so they can evaluate the risk? If yes, what is the process?

- Yes, through various communication platforms such as REACH, email, and telephone message.

If staff or students test positive, how long will they be required to stay home?

- At least 10 days and symptom free for three days.

Will students who are required to stay home do school via an e-learning format? What preparations/plans have you made for this?

- Students who are home sick need to focus on getting well. Students who test positive but are asymptomatic will be able to keep up with coursework using the Schoology Learning Management Platform.

If a teacher or a student is exposed, will they have the option to be tested rather than quarantine? How many days must they wait to be tested?

- ASCTE does not have the authority to test students. ASCTE will follow HIPPA and any testing decisions will be between the parent and child.

Will students rotate as a group between teachers (so they'll be around the same "pod" of kids throughout the day) or will they be mixed, as is typical in a public high school?

- Students will be divided into 4 teams which they will stay with until club time at 3:00pm. Class sizes will not exceed 20 students.

What physical distancing measures are you taking in classrooms?

- Limiting class size, all desks facing the same direction, and limiting small group work.

What are the consequences if a student doesn't wear a mask properly/regular removes the mask when masks are required? What are the consequences of a teacher or other staff member who exhibits this behavior?

- Faculty will be trained on stressing the importance of wearing a face covering appropriately. A student who is insubordinate on this safety measure will be dealt with in a similar manner as any other disciplinary issues. Students will not be allowed to intentionally place other students at risk.

When we get to a point where there is no mask ordinance, are masks only going to be recommended (not required) at times when 6 foot physical distance cannot be maintained?

- If a mask ordinance is lifted, ASCTE will still encourage masks to be worn and students practice healthy hygiene.

Do we fall under the new guidelines school systems in Madison County are following?

- No, we are unaffiliated with other local school systems.

Do we need to provide masks? If so, how many?

- ASCTE will provide masks for students.

OTHER

Are jeans with rips/tears allowed?

- No jeans with rips, holes, or tears are allowed

What type of shorts are allowed on Fridays?

- No athletic shorts

Are jackets or pullovers allowed over the required dress code shirt ?

- Yes, students are allowed to wear plain jackets and pullovers over the dress code shirt.

What type of shirt are girls allowed to wear?

- Collared shirts and blouses. T-shirts, spaghetti straps, tank tops, halter tops, off the shoulder tops, or sheer/see through tops are not allowed. Please view the [Dress Code video](#) for more information.

Is there a bank on Oakwood's campus or one nearby in case students need access?

- ATMs on Oakwood campus will be available to students.

What is the address for mailing the meal fees payment? Will free, reduced, or payment options be offered for meals?

- Please send meal payments to The Alabama School of Cyber Technology and Engineering, PO Box 22086, Huntsville, AL 35814. Requests for financial assistance for meals or other economic hardships can be made by emailing Dean of Students Michelle Stovall-Whitlow at michelle.stovall-whitlow@ascte.org

I am not on Facebook, in part because of security concerns related to the site. It was my understanding that I would be contacted directly, by email or other means of communication, when official announcements are made concerning school plans. Please clarify how I am to best keep track of new information from the school.

- We will work to use email and the website as sources to provide information including updates.

The curriculum video mentions enrichment time. Is this where music will enter the curriculum? We are interested in learning more about what will be offered during enrichment.

- A variety of enrichment courses will be available on a cycle every 6 weeks. Some courses will be longer than the 6 week cycle, such as AP Physics. Music classes are offered every enrichment cycle. Music will be available both during enrichment and as an after school club activity.