

MAINE MARITIME ACADEMY

A College of Engineering, Management, Science, and Transportation

Summer 2020 Policy for Students Enrolled in Summer Courses

This will be a summer work period like no other. This policy applies to all field experiences, cadet shipping, and internships, which support MMA courses in 2020. The Maine Maritime Academy understands that decisions to accept a cadet shipping billet, field experience or internship are always those of the student. Decisions to accept such positions in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic are more difficult to make. The Maine Maritime Academy will support the decisions students make, whether they decide to pursue an opportunity or not. However, students who choose to pursue an opportunity that qualifies as an appropriate work experience this summer **must** comply with these requirements in order to get credit and to successfully complete a course associated with that work experience. Students choosing not to participate this summer should contact the Registrar, Amy Gutow, (amy.gutow@mma.edu) to drop the course before June 30, 2020.

COVID-19 is a hazardous condition requiring vigilant situational awareness at work, at home and in the community. COVID-19 is a serious health threat which scientists and medical researchers continue to work to solve. Maine Maritime Academy graduates and students are no strangers to working in hazardous environments with unique risks. While safety regulations, knowledge, training and related precautions mitigate these dangers, understanding these risks increases a person's situational awareness, and that helps to plan and prepare for situations that may arise. Preparedness and prevention go together.

Students planning to participate in a summer work experience **must** strictly follow these requirements:

- Students **must** coordinate all their plans through the Career Services Office.
- Students **must** complete:
 - the Experiential Learning Agreement (ELA) found on the MMA Online Career Center,
 - the semester grades **must** be in for the preceding semester, and all incomplete (I) course prerequisites from the Spring semester courses must be completed,
 - the company **must** have offered the student a summer position, with an anticipated start date, **before** the student can begin work, and
 - if a summer position is offered **prior to June 1, 2020, a student must have additional written permission from the Career Services Office** (Deborah Harman or Chuck Easley).
- Students **must** return from summer courses in time to start the fall semester on Monday, August 31, 2020.

Many companies offering experiential learning opportunities to Maine Maritime Academy students are monitoring the CDC guidelines constantly and assessing the risk to their company, employees and customers. While these efforts are important, they cannot guarantee one's continued good health.

Each student enrolled in Cadet Shipping or an internship course needs to weigh carefully the health risks associated with participating in a summer course during 2020. Students, along with their parents, must weigh the *cost* of being exposed against the *chance* of being exposed. Students who accept internship opportunities are responsible for modifying their personal behavior to comply with CDC, state and company health recommendations for the student's safety as well as the safety of family, co-workers and others.

If a student tests positive for COVID-19 or other illness during Cadet Shipping or an internship, the student should seek medical attention through their employer, and notify the Maine Maritime Academy's Career Services Office.

Enterprising students should optimize every opportunity to learn. In situations where a student starts a work experience after June 15, 2020, and therefore will not meet the original course time requirements, the student needs to maximize the work experience to accumulate as many hours of work or sea days as the company will allow. The work supervisor, the course instructor and career services coordinators may be able to help with this.

Communication is vital at this time. Regular communication assures us that the student is safe and well. It is helpful for the student to inform family members before leaving about where the student is going, what to expect while the student is away, and that familiar communication patterns may change in terms of frequency and timing from what parents and loved ones are used to, sometimes for extended periods.

Note: This policy is subject to change due to the rapidly evolving COVID-19 pandemic and guidance from the CDC. If the Maine Maritime Academy must modify dates or provisions in the policy due to changes in CDC guidance or other public health guidelines, the Career Services Office will provide further instructions.