

March 8, 2021

Edmon Low Library used to be bustling with the sounds of students printing, grabbing a coffee, chatting with a friend, and typing away on computers. This is no longer the case, it's eerily quiet in the library this semester.

"People don't want to come to the library anymore," said Caitlin Wardour, a student who works at the desk on the first floor in Edmon Low.

With reduced hours and limits on the number of people allowed in study rooms, it seems that no matter the time of day, the library is comparable to a ghost town. Due to Covid restrictions such as wearing a mask and most study rooms allowing at most two people per room with smaller time windows allotted, the library traffic has been greatly reduced.

"I don't feel like people have any motivation to do school and study anymore," said Wardour. "It is hard to find motivation to want to leave your house when you don't have class on campus ever."

The desire to be in the library has subsided. Students who don't live on campus don't see value in getting ready and driving to campus to study when they could stay home and study without having to wear a mask, especially when they have no in-person classes and being on campus is not necessary.

"The mask thing while you're studying, I feel like it's a distraction for some people," said Wardour. "I just feel like masks and study rooms and there not being as many places for people to study because a lot of the rooms are for classrooms now has been hard on students, especially when this is one of the only places they have to study and do homework because of Wi-Fi."

"People realize that maybe the library is where they study, but they could also study at home," said Madison Wilson, a student who works at the desk on the first floor in the library. "It may be easier for them that way."

"Trying to study at home can be a struggle because that's where I do daily tasks and talk to friends and hangout".

She prefers to study at the library because "it allows people to focus on that one thing and not get distracted."

Elaine Duff, who also works at the desk on the first floor of the library said she feels like the library is so empty because "a lot of people don't want to study while wearing masks."

"You don't want to get sick," said Duff.

With the low number of students choosing to study at the library, Caitlin Wardour tries to make sure everyone still feels welcome by smiling with her eyes.

“You can’t see my mouth, but I smile 24/7.” “We understand it's hard for people to be here and have a mask on and that sometimes it's difficult and you're stressed.”

Still, she said she tries to always have patience with others and do what she can to make the smaller than usual number of students feel welcome.