

October 5, 2020

Dear Meredith Community,

As the temperatures start to cool (at last!) and leaves begin to change, it is time to turn our attention toward plans for the spring semester. As we have seen throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, thoughtful planning and a willingness to remain flexible and pivot in response to new data and changing guidelines are key to helping our campus Stay Strong.

## **So Far, So Good**

Thank you to all who have adhered to our [Community Standards](#) this fall. With enhanced cleaning protocols, strict adherence to following the Three Ws (Wear a face covering, Wait six feet apart, and Wash hands frequently), and use of the Campus Clear app to support self-screenings, we have been able to successfully offer a healthy mix of online and in-person classes while avoiding large breakouts of COVID-19. Many students & employees have worked hard to bring us to this point, and we are grateful for all of YOUR efforts.

**This is no time to let up.** It is critical that you continue to follow guidelines, avoid gathering in large groups, and promptly [report any exposure to COVID-19](#), particularly as we prepare to enter the colder fall months when we'll be spending more time indoors.

## **Plans for 2020-21**

Here is what we know now about the rest of the fall semester, the winter break, and spring semester. **All plans are made in accordance with the most recent guidance of the CDC, the American College Health Association (ACHA), and state and local officials with your safety and health as the primary consideration.**

### **Fall 2020**

#### **Academics**

As was announced previously, on-campus classroom activities will end no later than Tuesday, November 24. Virtual final examinations will be held Tuesday, Dec. 1 - Tuesday, Dec. 8. See the [Academic Calendar](#) and fall [Final Exam Schedule](#) for more details.

#### **Advising and Registration**

Pre-registration for spring 2021 classes begins Thursday, October 29. Students with questions about schedules should contact their faculty adviser or the [Office of Academic Advising](#) to schedule a virtual appointment.

#### **Housing and Meals**

A number of students have inquired whether it is possible to appeal for on-campus housing over the holidays, based on special circumstances. Heidi LeCount, director of residence life, will be sending information about Winter break housing and meal options for students via email in the next week or so.

### **Spring 2021**

#### **Academics**

The spring [academic calendar](#) is available on the registrar's website. Classes will begin on Wednesday, January 13. Much like the fall, we plan to offer a mix of on-line asynchronous, synchronous, hybrid, and face-to-face classes for spring 2021. Our goal is to maintain a high-quality academic experience while offering maximum flexibility for faculty and students.

**On-Campus Housing and Meals**

Belk Dining Hall will open on January 9 for Resident Assistants and any break residents. Residence Halls will open on January 10th at noon. Look for more information from the Office of Residence Life in the coming weeks.

**Staying Strong = Staying Informed**

We will keep you informed as plans continue to evolve. Please pay attention to your emails and monitor the [Staying Strong](#) website, which is updated regularly.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to following safety guidelines that are so critical to keeping one another safe during this challenging time. We are deeply grateful for you, our Meredith community, and hope to all be together on campus soon.

Stay Strong and Healthy,

Jo Allen, '80, and the Executive Leadership Team  
sent 10/5/20, 11:14 a.m.