



October 8, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you for all you are doing to help us navigate the complexities associated with operating the University during the pandemic. Your efforts are contributing powerfully to the University's continued pursuit of our educational mission this semester.

We are committed to keeping you informed about the University's COVID-19 response planning, and so we are sharing with you a copy of a message that was sent today to students and their families related to our plans for the spring 2021 semester. As you will see, our plans continue to reflect the realities of the pandemic environment, and we all must continue our steadfast commitment to the continued health and well-being of our community.

We remain deeply appreciative of your many and varied contributions.

Sincerely,

David Hale

Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer

Jeffrey Legro

Executive Vice President and Provost

Dear Students and Families,

As we work together to help ensure the safe progression of our fall term on campus, University staff and faculty are also busy with preparations for our spring semester. We are writing today to update you on several key components of that planning.

Our plans continue to reflect the pandemic environment, and we remain committed first and foremost to the health and well-being of our community. As a result, we will continue to be vigilant about our health and safety protocols — most importantly our mask and physical distancing requirements as well as all the steps we are taking to clean and sanitize our facilities. The ongoing health and safety of our community is something we monitor daily, and we will adjust our plans as needed along the way.

Just as we did for the fall, our plans for the spring semester involve an approach that maintains the University of Richmond's commitment to providing a top-quality, residential, educational opportunity while also doing all we can to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 infection within our campus community. We are confident that all our students will continue to do what is necessary to support a safe spring semester, just as you have been doing this fall.

In line with current conditions, we want you to know the following about our spring plans:

SPRING SEMESTER CALENDAR AND COURSE SPECIFICS

- The first day of classes will be Jan. 19, 2021, and classes will conclude April 23. Finals will take place April 28–May 6.
- There will be no spring break in order to protect our campus community from COVID-19 and allow for the later start to the spring semester.
- As was the case this fall, many courses will be offered in person while some will be offered fully online or use a combination of approaches. Students may view the spring schedule of classes on BannerWeb beginning Wednesday, Oct. 28.
- In-person classes will continue to be offered in classrooms modified to support active learning while adhering to physical distancing and related safety protocols.
- Advising for spring courses will begin Nov. 2, with priority registration beginning Nov. 9.
- At this time, we plan to hold Commencement ceremonies as detailed at commencement.richmond.edu on the weekends of May 1–2 and 7–8, though those events and their format will depend on the course of the virus.
- More details about the calendar, advising, and registration can be found at registrar.richmond.edu.

REMOTE LEARNING

- We recognize some students will not be able to join us in person for spring term, and the University will offer those students the opportunity to study remotely.
- Students will need to inform the University of their remote study plans by completing this form. More details are available at [Studying Remotely - Spring 2021](#).
- Students studying remotely are strongly encouraged to review and enroll in courses being offered by faculty online, but access to most in-person classes through technology will also be available, as they were this semester.

SPRING HOUSING

The arrival process we followed in the fall was successful, so we intend to replicate it in the spring. Once again, we are planning for a staggered move-in with COVID-19 testing upon arrival. Move-in dates are being finalized, and more specific information and instructions are forthcoming from Student Development and Residence Life. Key information to be aware of right now includes:

- Students will not be allowed to move in except during their assigned time. More details will be available from Residence Life soon.
- New first-year students who are beginning their enrollment in January, as well as first-year students who were enrolled in the fall and who will transition to campus in January, will

receive information in the coming weeks on orientation activities. These activities will occur after the assigned housing move-in date.

- Students who were not on campus in the fall and wish to move to campus for the spring semester should apply for housing by Nov. 1 via the Spring Application available in the StarRez Portal.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

We are closely tracking the State Department and CDC websites for information related to travel restrictions and quarantine requirements, and we encourage students traveling internationally to do the same. Please reach out to the Office of International Education with questions or concerns.

WINTER BREAK PERIOD

While we expect that most students will vacate the campus according to our fall calendar, we also recognize that a small number of students may need to remain on campus during the period from Thanksgiving week through the beginning of the spring term. If you need to remain on campus, please complete the “Winter Break Housing Request” available in the StarRez portal by Wednesday, Oct. 14. Late requests will not be accepted. Completing a request does not guarantee approval. Students will be notified of the status of their request by the Office of Residence Life and Housing by Friday, Oct. 23.

SPRING STUDY ABROAD

This spring UR will offer limited study abroad programming. The Office of International Education is working with students accepted for study abroad and will also continue to offer opportunities for international students who may not be able to travel to the United States.

Of course, all our planning is contingent upon the containment of the virus on our campus and prevailing conditions elsewhere. We continue to carefully and regularly monitor health conditions at the University, in Virginia, and across the country. Our plans will adapt to changing conditions. We remain grateful for your resilience and personal commitment to our well-being as a community. We all have a shared responsibility for making our fall and spring semesters productive and sustainable.

Thank you for caring for your fellow Spiders and our campus community.

Take good care,

Jeffrey Legro

Executive Vice President and Provost

Steve Bisese

Vice President for Student Development

