



July 2020

Dear Colleagues,

I write to share a message that will go to A&S, RSB, and JSLS students and families this afternoon. It contains information related to health and safety, remote study, classrooms, and registration.

Sincerely,

Jeff

Dear Students and Families,

We are very much looking forward to welcoming students back to campus next month. You received [information recently](#) about on-campus housing, the move-in process, and plans the University is developing to support campus health and safety. We write today with information primarily about your academic coursework during the fall semester. The University has developed an approach that maintains the University of Richmond's commitment to excellent instruction while also mitigating the risk of COVID-19 infection within our campus community. These adjustments require change to campus routines and at times will be inconvenient, but we are confident that University of Richmond students will contribute to the necessary steps to support a successful on-campus semester. **Students will also have the option to complete the academic semester fully online as described below.**

As a follow up to the information in this letter, we hope you will also join President Crutcher and others for a Zoom conversation on July 22 at 4:30 p.m. EST. You can register for that conversation [here](#).

## **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

The health and safety of the campus community is our highest priority as we plan for the coming academic year. The University has developed and will continue to develop robust protocols and policies intended to promote the health and safety of all members of the campus community. For 14 days prior to arrival on campus, students are required to monitor their temperature and symptoms and to engage in risk reduction practices, such as avoiding large crowds and gatherings and maintaining safe distance (at least 6 feet apart) from people outside of their family unit. UR is also following the [CDC recommendations](#) regarding [quarantine](#) after international travel. Students should not come to campus if they are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19. All students will be tested for COVID-19 upon arrival on campus, and additional testing will be conducted throughout the semester. Students may be exempted from testing upon arrival if they have a negative test result from a test taken no more than 72 hours prior to arrival on campus.

We are also closely monitoring national, state, and local COVID-19 trends. At present, Virginia is not experiencing the surge in COVID-19 cases that other states are seeing. We know that our community's behavior will be essential to maintaining campus health and safety this fall. All students, faculty, and staff will be asked to sign a Healthy Web Community Compact, which is a commitment to following the University's health and safety procedures and a demonstration of our shared responsibility for the health of the Spider community. The University will circulate the Healthy Web Community Compact and provide more detailed information regarding our health and safety policies and protocols over the next few weeks.

## ACADEMIC CALENDAR

As previously announced, Fall 2020 classes will begin on August 24. There will be no fall break this year, and students should plan to return home for the semester on Saturday, November 21, or Sunday, November 22. There will be no classes the week of Thanksgiving (Monday, November 23–Friday, November 27). Students will complete the last week of fall classes, November 30–December 4, and the study period and final exams remotely. A small number of students who are unable to return to their home and/or for reasons of visa continuity will remain on campus through the end of the semester and the break.

## MODES OF LEARNING

The University of Richmond is known for its small classes and highly accessible faculty who put student learning first. Faculty are spending the summer preparing for your arrival and carefully considering the best way to deliver an outstanding learning experience under the constraints imposed by the current health situation. There are some subjects and approaches that cannot be accommodated in existing spaces given [physical distancing guidelines](#) (e.g., some labs) or that are not suited to the new spaces/safety guidelines (e.g., some language instruction), and these classes will be taught partially or fully remote. In addition, faculty who are at high risk or living with someone at high risk will be teaching their courses remotely. But all of our courses, no matter how they are delivered, will retain the hallmarks of a Richmond education — interactive, student-centered, and personal. In addition, our student support services — such as student involvement, career services, academic skills, counseling and psychological services — will be in full operation.

While we are eager to reconvene our academic community in person, we recognize that not all students will choose to or be able to return to campus. We are committed to helping each and every student continue to make academic progress, even if they are unable to be in residence this fall. International students face particular challenges this year. Our hybrid approach this fall includes most of our in-person classes also being available to non-resident students who need to [study remotely](#). **Students who will not be in residence on campus and wish to take fall term classes remotely may submit a request [here](#).**

## CLASSROOMS

To support the health and safety of our community, many classes will take place in larger spaces, and some courses have moved partially or fully remote. Because of the limited number of large spaces available for classroom use, some classes have also changed the time at which they are offered or the building in which they typically meet. Face coverings and physical distancing will be required for both faculty and students in all classrooms.

## REGISTRATION

Registration for returning students will begin on Monday, July 20, and will follow the registration rotation schedule [here](#). During this registration period, students may register for up to 5.5 units. Students may view the updated schedule of classes and their current schedule, which include courses for which they previously registered, on BannerWeb beginning Wednesday, July 15. As noted, a number of classes had to be moved to meet physical distancing guidelines. Some classes have been moved online as well; these classes will be marked in BannerWeb. Students will need to review their schedules for potential time conflicts due to these changes and be prepared to rectify the conflicts during the registration period. Additional information and instructions may be found [here](#).

Registration for first-year students will begin on August 3. Additional information about registration and course selection for new students can be found [here](#).

As our planning work continues, we recognize that conditions may continue to change. We intend to provide the excellent, personalized education for which Richmond is known while protecting our campus community and remaining adaptable and responsive to change. To do this, each of us must commit to the practices and procedures necessary to safeguard community health and to limit the spread of COVID-19. Indeed, every student has a role to play and a shared responsibility for making our fall semester successful and sustainable. Thank you for your commitment to caring for your fellow Spiders and our campus community. We look forward to reconvening the University in this most unusual year.

Sincerely,

**Jeffrey Legro**

Executive Vice President and Provost

**Steve Bisese**

Vice President for Student Development