

May 28, 2020
Sent to Academic Senate Members

Subject: Planning for Fall

Colleagues,

We are sharing messaging sent today to all continuing undergraduate students. It aligns with and expands on language that you will have seen in the Chancellor's Friday messages as well as a specific letter from the Chancellor sent recently to all incoming students. Parallel communications are being crafted for graduate and professional students.

We understand that all – faculty, staff and students alike – have many questions about how we will function in fall quarter. We are working intensively on filling in the details. Some clearly depend on guidance we have yet to receive from the relevant county public health authorities; we are, indeed, consulting with them closely. This guidance will in turn serve as the framework for protocols we will be developing that will support a gradual return to campus of many of the staff not already present and engaged in or supporting activities deemed essential from the outset. (Note: clinical operations throughout UCD Health and the Vet Med Hospital have already established such protocols, responding to different demands, and have been operating in accordance to them.)

Just as public health guidance has provided the landmarks for the multi-staged [Research Ramp-Up Program](#), the guidance we expect shortly from Yolo and Sacramento counties will set the parameters for planning the operation of residence halls, dining facilities, and other shared spaces, including multi-person offices and classrooms. Likewise, being developed and vetted are plans for screening/testing and case investigation/contact tracing. As soon as these various plans begin to cohere, we will be integrating them with additional ongoing work identifying the courses departments and faculty would like to see run in-person or have an in-person component. At that point, we will operationalize a checklist to make sure that each of the courses scheduled for in-person operation falls within that guidance.

As the message to students puts it, "Over the coming weeks and months we will share more specifics as soon as we can confirm them." No one wishes more than we that we could be more specific now, but so much of our planning depends on decisions from external authorities and work that can only be completed after we receive them.

The campus is working diligently to make careful and thoughtful decisions about appropriate measures to be taken to reduce any potential threat to the greatest possible extent. Specific protocols involving distancing, masking, hygiene, screening/testing and case investigation/contact tracing will be put in place to protect students, faculty, and staff members alike. As notified [previously](#), courses planned to be taught via remote instruction for Fall 2020 do not need to go through the Senate's formal approval process. Final decisions about courses that will be taught only in-person or have an in-person alternative to the remote format will be based on the detailed analysis of the particular circumstances of each course referenced above in light of public health guidance.

We know that many questions remain and others will arise. As always, we will be relying on, and in some cases extending, principles and practices we have long had in place. So for example, and as we have signaled to the students, should there be a situation in which a student cannot come to campus for

a course – a lab, for example, or a practicum – that is only being offered in person with no remote option, they will have to work with major advisors to see if there is a legitimate substitution that can allow them to fulfill the requirement. It will always be up to the departmental or college authorities, following the guidance of faculty, to grant or deny exceptions. Faculty will of course continue to have the authority to decide whether a prerequisite can be waived or not. We urge that all involved act as generously as they feel they can do responsibly, especially when a negative decision would prevent a senior from graduating.

In the meantime, as we near the end of spring quarter, hats off to those who so quickly pivoted to remote instruction. Our [Keep Teaching](#) website has had nearly 100,000 visits since it was launched, with over 70,000 distinct visitors. Many of you will be preparing for remote instruction for the summer or fall, with some being completely new to this mode of course delivery. We wanted to highlight opportunities available for instructors:

- The [Keep Teaching](#) website just mentioned covers remote instruction and has a rich repository of [recorded content](#) for instructors and [strategies for remote learning for students](#). A mid-June site revision will include a more streamlined way to find information on remote teaching strategies, tools, and support. Formative assessments, active learning, and inclusive teaching strategies are among the topics. Upcoming webinars and workshops can be found under the “Featured Events” section of the Keep Teaching site.
- CEE will offer the [ACCELERATE Fellows](#) program multiple times over the summer. The fellowship is designed to raise awareness about equity and inclusion for remote teaching and provide instructional strategies. For information and a tentative schedule, visit the [ACCELERATE site](#).
- The [Summer Institute on Teaching and Technology](#) from [ATS](#), with synchronous and asynchronous elements will happen the week of July 20th and is an opportunity to hear from and chat with colleagues.
- For graduate student instructors, [CEE](#) will offer a number of [workshops on remote teaching](#) that cover assessment, interactivity, and course design.

We hope these will prove helpful, and thanks to all of you who are already finding ways to share best practices and new discoveries with your colleagues. If anyone has an inquiry of CEE, questions are best directed to cee@ucdavis.edu.

Thank you for your patience, collaboration, and dedication to our teaching mission.

Sincerely,

Ralph J. Hexter
Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor

Kristin H. Lagattuta
Chair, Davis Division of the Academic Senate

Subject: Planning for Fall Instruction

Dear Continuing Students,

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve, we want to assure you that UC Davis takes your health and public health seriously and that we will continue to address your and your families' concerns about campus operations.

While there is still great uncertainty regarding the future course of COVID-19, what is certain is UC Davis' commitment to delivering a world-class education.

In response to COVID-19, some of you chose to return home for spring quarter, while many of you have either stayed in Davis or sheltered in place elsewhere, whether in the United States or abroad. Many of you have already registered for our remote Summer Sessions; there are still available slots.

We know you have questions about fall quarter at UC Davis.

This message is addressed primarily to undergraduates and focuses on undergraduate instruction. We will be sending a separate message to graduate students, and each school will communicate with its professional degree seekers. Although certain details may vary, the commitment and principles behind them remain constant across the entire university.

We are currently making plans to resume many activities on campus this fall and offer a significant number of our courses in person, always following state and county public health guidelines. Given the circumstances, a sizeable number of courses will be delivered solely in virtual formats. Others may have both in-person and remote alternatives.

We are also preparing for increased on-campus housing and dining options, along with modified student services.

Above all, we want you to know that if you are unable or decide not to be on campus this fall, for whatever reason, UC Davis is prepared to offer you remote instruction for the fall quarter so you can continue to make degree progress.

The great majority of classes you need will be available in a remote mode. A limited number may not be. If you find that a course you require for academic progress is only offered in person, we will work with you to see how best to meet your needs, either via an alternative remote course or in another way.

Finally, if there are fall courses that are both in-person and remote, students who may have had to begin the class remotely from an off-campus location can later join the in-person class, limited by any public health directives about the size of in-person gatherings in effect at that time.

Over the coming weeks and months we will share more specifics as soon as we can confirm them.

As always, your college academic advisors will help you find the courses you need to make progress towards your degree. Please contact your academic advisor with any questions when it is the right time for you to make your course selections.

International Students: your SISS advisor is the best source of information for issues related to your I-20, F-1 or J-1 status, and work authorization questions.

Thank you for your patience and resilience in these unprecedented times. We want to support your passion and determination to achieve your educational goals and earn your UC Davis degree. Go Ags!

Sincerely,

Ralph Hexter
Provost & Executive Vice Chancellor
Distinguished Professor of Classics & Comparative Literature
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