
Fwd: Countdown to Fall Semester: July 23, 2020

1 message

UCA President's Office <presidentsoffice@uca.edu>
Reply-To: noreply@uca.edu
To: FS <fs@uca.edu>

Thu, Jul 23, 2020 at 3:11 PM

Dear Faculty and Staff:

Please find below a message that was sent to all returning and new UCA students this afternoon. I wanted you all to be aware of this communication.

Thank you,
Houston

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **UCA President's Office** <presidentsoffice@uca.edu>
Date: Thu, Jul 23, 2020 at 2:52 PM
Subject: Countdown to Fall Semester: July 23, 2020
To:

UCA Students:

Whether you are a new or returning UCA student, in just one month, you will begin a fall semester unlike any other in recent memory. As we prepare for an academic year in which many adjustments and accommodations will be made due to COVID-19, I would like to share some important details about our plan and what you can expect when you come to campus in August. Your health and safety are of utmost importance to us, and we want you to feel comfortable and safe when you arrive on campus.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR AND CLASS FORMATS:

After many lengthy, detailed discussions with campus leadership and health officials, we have decided to start the fall term as scheduled on August 20 but to present options for instructional delivery. We will have a range of course options available, including in-person, hybrid, and online, to meet the needs of our students. While the majority of our 2,500 fall courses will be face-to-face, even those traditional, face-to-face courses will have elements of remote learning to allow for physical distancing and minimize crowding in facilities.

Every academic department and major will have some courses that are fully online for those students that would prefer to take **exclusively** online courses this fall. This will vary by college and department, with online courses representing between 30 to 50 percent of classes in many departments. Courses moved to fully online should be reflected in the fall schedule.

The Office of Student Success has created a very helpful webpage that explains the different class formats students could see this fall. You can review that information here, and reach out to them at studentsuccess@uca.edu with any additional questions.

It is extremely important that you check your CUB account (UCA student email) regularly. Your professors will be sending out important information to you regarding class format and scheduling beginning in early to mid-August. Contact your academic advisor or your department chair if you have

any questions about your schedule.

Below are additional details and key academic calendar dates to keep in mind:

- All UCA fall semester classes will begin Aug. 20, 2020.
- We have removed the fall break and added those days to the Thanksgiving break. Therefore, the final day of any on-campus instruction will be Friday, Nov. 20, 2020, and students will have a full week off (Monday, Nov. 23 through Sunday, Nov. 29) for Thanksgiving.
- The four days of instruction following Thanksgiving, as well as final exams in December, will be online.
- Though face-to-face instruction for the fall semester will end after November 20, 2020, the rest of campus, including residence halls, dining facilities, HPER, and library will remain open through the end of finals week in December.
- The spring 2021 semester will begin Tuesday, January 19, 2021, which is the Tuesday after the observation of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Just as in the fall semester, we plan for the spring semester to have a variety of options for instructional delivery.

You can see an updated academic calendar reflecting these dates [here](#).

CHANGES TO CLASSROOMS AND SPECIAL EQUIPMENT:

Based on CDC and ADH recommendations, classroom seating will not exceed 66% of the room's capacity. In regular classrooms, seating and desks will be spaced six feet apart. In lecture halls, seats and rows may be taped off to ensure a 6-foot distance between seats. Planning is ongoing regarding sanitization of desk spaces throughout the day.

There are some academic areas on campus, such as science labs and clinic spaces, that require group work and close contact. In these areas, students may be required to wear additional personal protective equipment, such as KN95 masks, face shields, and protective clothing and gloves. Please know that UCA will provide these materials.

ACADEMIC CONTINUITY:

As noted, all of our courses meeting face-to-face have been redesigned as hybrid models to allow for physical distancing and minimize crowding in facilities. **Regardless of format, all 2,500 UCA classes in the fall semester will be designed to allow for a pivot to remote or online attendance and instruction if required.**

FACE COVERINGS REQUIREMENT:

Wearing cloth face coverings has been shown to be one of the most effective ways to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. When we all wear face coverings, our chances of spreading the virus are dramatically reduced. This fall, students, faculty and staff **will be required to wear face coverings in enclosed spaces** — in classrooms, hallways, lobbies, restrooms, stairwells and elevators — and in any situation where maintaining six feet from others is not possible. Face coverings will also be required outside when social distancing is not possible. However, students will not be required to wear face coverings while in their dorm room or in their own personal space.

Some exceptions will be granted to those who, for medical reasons, cannot wear a face covering. These students must have documentation from a medical professional and must present it to their instructor and keep it with them at all times.

While you are free to wear your own face covering, UCA will provide all students with a UCA-branded covering. Additionally, UCA will provide KN95 masks in specific instances such as to Nursing students or other College of Health and Behavioral Sciences students doing clinicals, and for students working in public K-12 schools. These will be distributed by the respective departments.

TESTING, TRACING, ISOLATING:

Our UCA Student Health Clinic, in partnership with the Arkansas Department of Health and Conway Regional Health System, will be prepared to test and trace any students, faculty, or staff members who are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 or those who believe they may have been in close contact with an infected person(s). COVID-19 tests can be done on campus or at Conway Regional Health System, depending on the situation and the needs of the individual. **Students should not come to class if they are awaiting COVID-19 test results.** All classes are being designed to support remote learning to ensure that students can continue their studies while in quarantine or isolation.

Dr. Randy Pastor, UCA Medical Director, has developed a protocol outlining the steps students should take if they need to get tested, or if they receive a positive COVID-19 diagnosis. That protocol may be [viewed here](#), under “Testing, Tracing, Isolating.”

We have isolation and quarantine housing plans in place to safely support any students living on campus who either test positive for COVID-19 or who have been in close contact with someone who tests positive. We are preparing multiple buildings — including reserving the entirety of Carmichael Hall (120 separate rooms) — that will be dedicated to serve those students who are required to quarantine and need to remain in campus housing. Additionally, we are reserving other university-owned housing to isolate those who have received a positive COVID-19 diagnosis and need to remain on campus.

Should a student need to be moved to isolation or quarantine housing, UCA Health Clinic staff will transport them via open-air golf cart or shuttle. There, a full staff will be dedicated to addressing students’ needs, including medical care and daily check-ups, food service, and basic errands. Students will also be able to participate in organized, socially distanced activities for physical and social health.

CAMPUS HOUSING GUIDELINES:

Regular university policy requires freshmen to live on campus for their first year, but we will be flexible with freshman students’ needs for this coming fall and spring. First-time freshmen who are interested in living off campus must still complete the Housing Exemption Form found [here](#).

Residence Life staff are following guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Arkansas Department of Health and are taking extra steps to ensure that residence halls remain clean, safe environments.

Students and residents will be required to wear face coverings while in any public areas of residence halls, including hallways, stairwells, restrooms, laundry rooms, and lobbies. However, students will not be required to wear face coverings in their own room or personal space.

Custodians are cleaning all community spaces in residence halls, including restrooms and lobbies, on a daily basis and are focusing on wiping down all touch points such as sinks, door knobs/handles,

tables, elevator buttons, toilets, faucets, light switches, etc. As in years past, students should bring their own daily cleaning supplies, such as disinfectant spray and wipes, to perform routine cleaning inside of their rooms.

One big thing that has changed for 2020-21 is our policy on visitors. This year, you cannot have visitors from other areas of campus or outside of campus come to your residence hall. For instance, if you live in Arkansas Hall, your friend from State Hall will not be allowed to visit inside your building. This also applies to your family members. In order to keep our entire campus community safe, we will be strictly enforcing this new rule. If your RA sees someone who is not a resident in the hall, he or she will be asked to leave.

While you cannot have visitors inside the residence hall, you CAN have visitors meet you outside, where you are able to maintain a safe distance. We have added even more outdoor seating all around campus this year, so take advantage of the fresh air and beautiful campus and get outside!

MOVE-IN DAY:

We want to make sure that all of our Bears living on campus have a great experience. In order to start strong, our Housing Department has made some changes to the Move-In Day schedule to allow for a more staggered approach with fewer individuals on campus at one time. Students should review the schedule and ensure they know when their move-in date and time will be. The UCA Housing site has specific information for freshmen, upperclassmen, and Greek students. [Click here to see the schedule.](#) For any additional housing and move-in day questions, email housing@uca.edu.

POLICY ON RESIDENCE HALL AND DINING SERVICE FEES:

We know there are many questions about room and board and dining service fees and how they may be impacted if we are forced to close campus. **In the event that the university closes all operations before the end of the fall 2020 semester, we will provide students with prorated housing and meal plan reimbursements** much like we did this past spring. Expect additional information about fees in subsequent communications.

VULNERABLE POPULATIONS:

Our top priority will always be safeguarding the health of our entire campus community. We are planning for a variety of different scenarios and are doing everything in our power to ensure we have a healthy, safe return to campus. That said, we cannot predict the future; it is impossible to know with certainty how the next few months will look. If you are part of a vulnerable population, or if you have someone at home who is vulnerable, your decisions about the fall semester should be guided by what you feel is best for you and your unique situation. If you feel like you **should take exclusively online classes**, please contact your advisor or department chair to see what options are available. If you do not know who your advisor is, please contact the Academic Advising Center.

<https://uca.edu/advising/>.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE):

Orders for additional PPE are ongoing, but we have successfully ordered 50,000 UCA-branded face coverings; 5,000 black face coverings; over 71,000 disposable face masks; over 120,000 disposable gloves; over 5,000 KN95 masks; and 2,000 face shields to distribute to students, faculty and staff. We have also secured large quantities of disposable gowns, sanitizing wipes and spray, plexiglass, and thermometers, and we have installed plexiglass dividers in areas where it is deemed appropriate.

WHAT'S NEXT:

In the coming weeks, we will continue to communicate frequently with students, faculty, and staff regarding our plans. We will soon release a series of student-focused social media posts and videos that seek to answer many of the questions students and families have about returning to campus this fall. We are also working on a Student Guide, which will be as comprehensive as possible in outlining how we plan to navigate the fall semester and beyond. Continue to watch your UCA CUB email account and the [UCA coronavirus webpage](#) closely for these important communications. You can direct suggestions, questions, or feedback to coronavirus@uca.edu.

Please know that we are working daily to ensure that all UCA students have a rich, fulfilling academic and campus life experience in a safe environment. Thank you for your commitment to this university and to each other. If we all work together, we will have a successful fall 2020 semester and remain #UCAStrong.

Sincerely,

Houston Davis
President