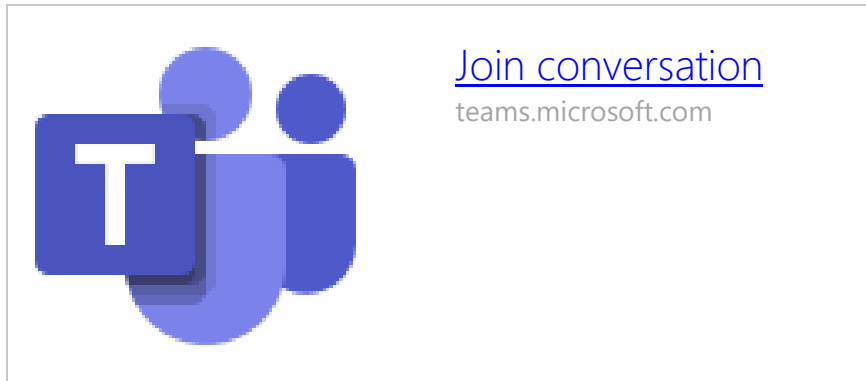


July 24, 2020

Greetings, faculty and staff.

First, a reminder that my Provost Office Hour is from 9:30 to 10:30 each Friday. You can stop in to ask questions or chat about a concern by using this [Teams link](#):



Second, the President sent several fall planning updates to students and families yesterday, and I will be following up with the additional information that you see below this afternoon. Please take a moment to review and, if you have any questions, stop into my office hour! I look forward to the ongoing conversation.

Best,
Adrienne

Greetings students. While we are in a perpetual state of planning as we respond to changing guidance and COVID-19 incidence rates, I wanted to take this opportunity to reach out with a few important decisions and suggestions for you to consider as you prepare for the fall 2020 semester. On July 30 at 6:30 p.m., we will host a Town Hall event for our students using Blackboard Collaborate. I hope you will join in and submit any questions you may have. We look forward to the conversation!

I want you and your family members to know that the faculty, staff, and administration at Winthrop have spent every minute of this summer preparing for the safe continuation of your learning with a high-quality experience, whether it takes place online, in-person, or through some combination of these modalities. Faculty and staff have enrolled in large numbers for our online training course, completed webinars on fluid instruction, and pursued workshops on increasing their skill sets with using digital pedagogies and learning tools. Faculty and staff have put their plan A in place and identified their pivot plans for the various alternate scenarios that may unfold as we move forward. I am proud of the can-do spirit I have seen, despite the worry and exhaustion that inevitably accompany the change efforts taking place at such a large scale and in such a short span of time. This is the first of several updates I will send as we approach the beginning of what will no doubt be a semester that will go down in history!

2020-2021 Academic Calendar updates:

The Fall 2020 Academic Calendar can be found [here](#). Classes are currently planned to begin on Tuesday, August 25th. Here are changes we have made to the calendar: We will hold classes on Labor Day and cancel Fall Break. We want to minimize travel and keep the campus as virus-free as possible. To make up for adding Labor Day, we removed one instructional day from Thanksgiving week. Students will be able to move home for the remainder of the semester as of Saturday, November 21. Monday, November 23 will be a remote instruction day. Remote instruction will continue after Thanksgiving week and will end two days earlier in December than originally planned to offset cancelling Fall Break.

Residential students will be given a 10% discount on their fall 2020 housing fee as a result of the planned shift to remote learning.

No changes were made to the online calendar for graduate programs.

If you want to make changes to your housing and/or course schedule decisions:

The Residence Life office informed you of housing options on July 21st. Any student requesting a housing exemption or cancelling a housing contract will be accommodated. The deadline for responses is July 28. Those decisions will have an impact on your course schedule.

Students with in-person and hybrid classes who wish to shift their schedules to fully online must connect with their department chair and/or Dean's Office staff to discuss replacing any in-person or hybrid classes with online courses, whenever possible, and to discuss the impact of any schedule changes on your enrollment plan in future semesters. The list of all colleges is found [here](#), and the names of individuals to contact in each college can be found at the end of this email.

General information on course offerings mix:

We have made numerous changes to the Fall 2020 schedule and course offerings, which now reflect a mix of 35% in-person courses, 30% online courses, and 35% of the courses that are a mix of online and in-person (labeled as hybrid in wingspan). Winthrop has revised course offerings to accommodate proper physical distancing in the classrooms. These changes are nearly final and can be viewed in Wingspan.

Please log into Wingspan and review your Concise Student Schedule. Changes to course modalities were made in order to free up space in our existing classrooms. **In order to implement physical distancing, we have reset maximum occupancies and layouts for every in-person instructional space.** Additionally, having a good mix of online and hybrid courses will give us the needed flexibility to respond if we must move to remote instruction again. A few classes may have changed times or days to allow for the needed physical distancing based on enrollment. The instructional method of the class is now listed in the concise schedule. You can also look up each of your classes using the "Look Up Classes" feature to see the full course footnote that can explain in more detail how the class is meeting. We encourage you all to review your schedules and reach out to staff in your respective colleges with any questions you have.

Incoming students:

Welcome to Winthrop! We are so happy you are joining us at this unprecedented time! Your class will always be noted for its resilience and determination to continue your learning, no matter the obstacle. I want you to know that my son was in your shoes one year ago today and had a tremendous first-year experience as a Winthrop Eagle, despite moving home in March along with all his classmates. Teams across campus are working tirelessly to re-imagine the first-year experience in a way that ensures you will establish just as many new friendships, forge key connections with faculty and staff, and meet your learning milestones just as he did. From Eagles Landing to Convocation through to your first study day and final exams, we are ready to support you on every point of your flightpath.

First Flight: Incoming students were advised on how to build their schedules via First Flight, the introductory phase of our orientation process. We encourage all students who have completed First Flight to register as soon as possible if you are still waiting to do so. Slight changes in numbers may significantly impact room assignments, so we appreciate your help in identifying your planned scheduled immediately.

Eagles Landing was initially planned as a second, in-person phase for orientation. Given the current positive test rates in South Carolina, we are shifting Eagles Landing to a virtual platform. Instructions are forthcoming from New Student and Family Programs.

Student Safety:

Only by working together can we beat COVID-19 and get back to the campus experience we all miss. In order to accomplish this, **students will be required to wear masks in all campus buildings, unless they are in their assigned residence hall rooms.**

Students will be provided at least one reusable cloth mask when they report to campus. Faculty and staff will have some disposable masks available to provide to students on an as-needed basis. But we want to reduce the use of disposable products as much as possible.

Students with disabilities that prohibit wearing masks should connect with the [Office of Accessibility](#) (OA) to develop their plan for accommodation, which could include alternate face coverings, a face shield (if space allows for distancing) or shifting to an online section.

Students with other extenuating circumstances, such as religious beliefs and/or medical conditions that prohibit use of face masks, may have a conversation with their instructors regarding whether they can wear alternate face coverings, a face shield (if space allows for distancing) or shift to an online section. Students should communicate with their instructors to explore the best option. The [Office of Accessibility](#) is also a resource for students in need of accommodation for the reasons just mentioned and who have questions about their options.

Students who attend classes, events, or report to workspaces without wearing a mask will be asked to either put a mask on or leave the space. Refusing to mask will be a violation of the Student

Code of Conduct and subject to reporting to the Dean of Students Office for disciplinary purposes.

I know students will be sad to hear that **common time has been eliminated from the 2020-2021 academic calendar**. This difficult decision was made to allow classes to be shifted to that time slot to decrease classroom occupancy rates and, more importantly, to decrease congestion in the dining halls and common areas during that time. There are only a small number of courses scheduled at that time currently, but we wanted you to know why we made this change.

Sodexo will install occupancy limits and physical distancing within dining locations and provide grab and go food options at an increased rate to accommodate those who exceed occupancy limits. Additional places to eat outside will be established. Grub hub pre-ordered pick-up will be increased.

Custodial staff will also work to **sanitize instructional spaces** at the beginning and end of each day, following guidance from the CDC and DHEC and in partnership with our office of Environmental Health and Safety. But students and faculty will need to partner in cleaning efforts as well. Each faculty member will be provided cleaning kits that will travel with them, so that faculty and students can clean their own desks at the start of each class.

I know this is a lot of information. We have made additional decisions on grading methods, withdrawal deadlines, cultural events credits, and so much more. Be on the lookout for these details and many others on **Winthrop's Return to Learn website**, launching soon with in-depth information on what to expect next. And finally, I want to thank you for embarking on this journey with us and partnering to ensure a safe return to learning. Winthrop Ever Stand!

Contacts by College:

College of Arts and Sciences: Takita Sumter, Dean: sumtert@winthrop.edu

- Adria Belk, Student Services: belkal@winthrop.edu
- Wakefield Harper, Students Services: harperw@winthrop.edu

College of Business Administration: PN Saksena, Dean: saksenapn@winthrop.edu

- Gay Randolph, Student Services: randolphg@winthrop.edu
- Accounting, Finance and Economics: Lou Pantuosco: pantuosc@winthrop.edu
- Computer Science and Quantitative Methods: Steve Dannelly: dannellys@winthrop.edu
- Management and Marketing: Keith Robbins: robbinsk@winthrop.edu

College of Education: Jennie Rakestraw, Dean: rakestrawj@winthrop.edu

- Beth Costner, Associate Dean, or Ruth Gaylor, Student Academic Services: coesasga@winthrop.edu

College of Visual and Performing Arts: Jeff Bellantoni, Dean: bellantonij@winthrop.edu

- Student Services: Anna Fredericks: fredericksa@winthrop.edu
- Design: Eva Roberts: design@winthrop.edu
- Fine Arts: Karen Oremus: oremusk@winthrop.edu
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Graduate School: Jack DeRochi, Dean: derochij@winthrop.edu
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