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The goal of the *Path Forward Return to Campus - Academics* plan is to maintain an authentic, distinctive University of Dayton academic experience for our students while providing flexibility in instruction in the current environment.

Our plan is geared to helping the academic community navigate a number of challenging factors presented by the pandemic. Some faculty and students will not be able to come back to face-to-face classes; social distancing mandated by public health officials will create challenges for classes to meet or meet as a whole; and a serious outbreak on campus, in the county and/or the state could force classes to move online once again.

We believe our plan navigates these challenges and creates a highly flexible, adaptable framework that will provide robust learning experiences for our students and support our faculty during a most unpredictable time.

During the feedback stage of the plan development, input from students and faculty strongly emphasized that students value regular in-person engagement with University of Dayton faculty, and faculty recognize the educational value of such engagement. The plan will continue to evolve to develop opportunities and resources for this important component of a UD education.

Information related to University of Dayton employment including expectations and requirements in the areas of health and safety, cleanliness and sanitation and human resources, as well as checklists for returning to work on campus can be found in the *Path Forward Return to Campus - Guidelines for Faculty and Staff* online.
ACADEMIC CALENDAR

To discourage students from nonessential travel during the semester, students will begin classes on Monday, Aug. 24, depart campus at Thanksgiving (no later than Nov. 25), and complete the semester online without a typical fall break. Other modifications to the Academic Calendar are also designed to discourage nonessential travel. See the complete 2020-21 Academic Calendar here.

KEY DATES UNDER THE MODIFIED CALENDAR:

- Aug. 8-23  Phased move-in
- Aug. 24  Classes start
- Sept. 7  Classes will be held on Labor Day
- Sept. 23  One-day break
- In-person Family Weekend cancelled
- Midterm break cancelled
- Oct. 20  One-day break
- Nov. 24  Last day of class before Thanksgiving break
- Nov. 30  Classes resume online after Thanksgiving break
- Dec. 11  Last day of class instruction
- Dec. 14-18  Final fall term assessments due
- Dec. 18  Fall term ends

In addition to exams, assessment activities such as papers or presentations could be used to assess students’ knowledge and performance over the portion of the semester that will be conducted off-campus. More information on testing and assessment of student learning, including spaces to accommodate full classes for exams, will be forthcoming.
Programs that need to complete the semester face-to-face due to accreditation or licensure requirements and wish to be exempt from the Thanksgiving departure will need to submit to their dean’s office a rationale and plan for completion of the semester. Approval by the dean and provost’s office will be required.

Graduate courses or graduate students working on research who wish to be exempt from the Thanksgiving departure will need to submit to their dean’s office a rationale and plan for completion of the semester. Approval by the dean and provost’s office will be required.

Online programs associated with 2U will continue to operate on their typical schedules.

**INSTRUCTIONAL DELIVERY**

- Classes will meet in person to the extent possible. Faculty will be prepared to continue instruction online to ensure that student learning will continue no matter the state of the pandemic and the expectations of public health officials.

- Flexibility in instructional delivery is also necessary to accommodate student and faculty needs. For example, some students may not be able to return to campus because of health concerns. During the semester, students who test positive for the virus or come into contact with someone who tests positive will be required to isolate or quarantine and will not be able to participate in in-person classes.

- Special attention will be given to the particular academic needs of first-year students that will help foster their engagement. Information and resources will be forthcoming for program directors, department chairs, and deans’ offices.

- Some classes will be fully face-to-face, and some courses will involve a blend of online and face-to-face interaction. Some classes will be offered completely online due to class size or if faculty members cannot meet face-to-face with students. The modality will be determined by the nature of the course and program curriculum, room capacity, and faculty members’ ability to be present in the classroom.
Guidelines for department chairs' decisions about course modalities and faculty accommodations have been approved by the deans, and deans' offices will provide oversight of faculty teaching assignments for purposes of consistency, equity and compliance with applicable policies.

Weekly face-to-face or synchronous sessions should be built into the course design. All face-to-face or synchronous course components will be held during scheduled class times. Synchronous online components will be recorded.

Regular weekly office hours, whether face-to-face or via Zoom, should be posted on syllabi. Many faculty offices are not large enough to allow for meetings with one or more students while maintaining social distancing guidelines. Rooms that will no longer accommodate classes will be available for meeting spaces for faculty and students or working with small groups of students.

Experiential learning is an essential component of a University of Dayton education. Information on navigating experiential learning challenges on and off campus while adhering to public health guidelines will be forthcoming.

Protocols for courses that by their nature require specific adaptations and considerations to promote safety are being developed; information will be forthcoming. Those courses include music, dance, art, labs and courses in the health and medical fields.
FLEXIBLE COURSE DELIVERY

Faculty are strongly encouraged to visit the newly updated Keep Teaching site where new resources have been added to support faculty as they plan for the fall semester, including:

- **Fall 2020 Course Facilitation and Engagement Guidelines** have been developed to enhance consistency, organization, and engagement opportunities across all courses. Faculty are strongly encouraged to review and implement these guidelines.

- Tools to assist in preparing for Flexible Teaching have been developed to aid faculty in their planning this summer as they design courses that can be successful in any mode of delivery.

- The “Preparing for Flexible Course Delivery” webinar by Innovative Educators has been made available for UD faculty.

- A new faculty listserv (flexteaching@udayton.edu) has been created so that faculty can share ideas and pose questions regarding course design, pedagogical ideas, etc. to their colleagues, and receive suggestions and ideas from others. More information about how to subscribe to the listserv can be found on the Keep Teaching site under the Seeking Support and Building Community section.

- The librarian liaisons are available to assist in acquiring materials for courses, creating course-specific research guides, and partnering on other course development needs for fall. The liaisons for the various disciplines can be found at https://udayton.edu/libraries/services/library-liaisons.php.

- Room capacity will significantly influence course design decisions. We are currently working to assess room capacities and reassign classrooms for efficiency and curricular appropriateness. We will share the new assignments as soon as possible.

- Due to smaller room capacities, most faculty will be unlikely to engage all of their students in each single face-to-face class session. Thus, activities in the classroom may require a different model, similar to a flipped or blended class. Suggestions and ideas for in-class activities given the social distancing guidelines are being prepared.
FACULTY EMPLOYMENT CONCERNS

- Per the University's Intellectual Property Policy, course materials developed for teaching courses delivered fully online or recorded as part of instruction remain the faculty member’s intellectual property unless such materials were developed using UD-administered funds paid specifically to support that development.

- During 2020-21, concerns related to the full scope of faculty employment i.e., research, teaching, and service will be reviewed. Recommendations for any adjustments to evaluation processes for merit, promotion, and tenure will be shared with the units.

- Resources are being gathered for faculty development and training related to hybrid and online pedagogies, including but not limited to large course sections, such as teaching assistants or graders.

- Resources regarding classroom management related to face coverings and social distancing are being developed.

- Additional information on best practices and resources for conducting testing and assessment of student learning in an online or hybrid environment will be forthcoming.

- More information related to the particular needs of graduate studies will be provided for graduate program directors, department chairs, and deans' offices.
RESOURCES

The Path Forward Academics working group, in conjunction with ECAS and utilizing the UNRC process, has developed five teams to focus on several academic areas; other teams are also in development.

THE TEAMS ARE:

- Faculty review processes.
- Experiential learning.
- Hybrid and online pedagogies.
- Graduate studies.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

- Faculty should first direct questions to their respective dean’s offices.
- Questions or comments for the Academics working group can be directed to Associate Provost Carolyn Phelps.
- Questions about the overall Path Forward plan or comments for other working groups should be sent to pathforward@udayton.edu.
President Eric F. Spina commissioned the UD Path Forward Task Force.

Co-chaired by Provost and Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs Paul Benson, Vice President for Student Development William Fischer, and Executive Vice President of Business and Administrative Services Andy Horner.

And working closely with Robin Oldfield, assistant vice president for compliance, internal audit & chief risk officer; Dr. Mary Buchwalder, medical director; Mary Ann Recker, vice president and general counsel; and Molly Wilson, vice president for marketing and communications.

The UD Path Forward Task Force leads working groups composed of about 100 members of the campus community.

**CRITICAL PATH WORKING GROUPS**

**ACADEMICS**
Chair: Carolyn Phelps, associate provost for faculty and administrative affairs

**STUDENT LIFE**
Co-Chairs: Christine Schramm, associate vice president for student development and dean of students, and Steve Herndon, assistant vice president for student development and executive director of housing and residence life

**PROTECTIVE MEASURES**
Chair: Katherine Cleaver, executive director of environmental health and safety

**INFRASTRUCTURE AND OPERATIONS**
Co-chairs: Rick Krysiak, vice president for facilities management and planning, and Savalas Kidd, executive director of public safety and chief of police

**RETURN TO OPERATIONS WORKING GROUPS**

**FACULTY/STAFF SUPPORT**
Co-chairs: Dr. Mary Buchwalder, health center medical director, and Troy Washington, vice president for human resources

**EXTERNAL RESOURCES COORDINATION AND RELATED RECORD KEEPING**
Co-chairs: Mary Ann Recker, vice president and general counsel, and Beth Stuart, internal audit director

**STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES**
Chair: Melissa Longino, assistant vice president for health and wellbeing and executive director, campus recreation

**ATHLETICS AND CAMPUS RECREATION**
Co-chairs: Scott DeBolt, senior associate athletics director and executive director of UD Arena, and Melissa Longino, assistant vice president for health and wellbeing and executive director, campus recreation

**LARGE GATHERINGS AND EVENTS**
Co-chairs: Amy Lopez-Matthews, executive director, Center for Student Involvement; and Scott DeBolt, senior associate athletics director and executive director of UD Arena

**TRAVEL**
Chair: Amy Anderson, associate provost for global and intercultural affairs and executive director of the Center for International Programs

**SPONSORED RESEARCH**
Chair: Mark Fuchs, director of environmental health and safety

**EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS CAMPAIGN**
Co-chairs: Kristen Keen, assistant dean of students and director, Brook Center; and Joe Valenzano, chair of Department of Communication

More information is available at go.udayton.edu/pathforward