



MEMORANDUM

TO: STUDENTS, PARENTS & THE OTTAWA UNIVERSITY KANSAS COMMUNITY

FROM: PRESIDENT REGGIES WENYIKA

DATE: MARCH 16, 2020

RE: OTTAWA UNIVERSITY KANSAS MOVES TO DISTANCE FORMAT FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE SEMESTER

As you may know, Ottawa University in Kansas recently announced that all classes would be moved to a distance-learning format through March 30. As the COVID-19 situation continues to rapidly evolve and more cases are being reported, the university has decided that all classes for the remainder of the spring semester will be through a distance format. In addition to this announcement, the university would like students to be aware of the following:

- Students who have left the campus for Spring Break are now asked to stay home and finish the semester through distance learning from home. Please note that opportunities and arrangements for retrieving personal belongings will be announced soon. Additional direction will be forthcoming in the next few days.
- Students who chose to stay on campus during Spring Break are now also encouraged to return home, following additional guidance and a review of rapidly changing circumstances.
- Students who are currently residing at home, or do choose to return home, will be subject to the guidance of their own respective local health authorities and should check with them if they have questions regarding documentation of travel and the like.
- Those students who are currently on campus, but not able to return home for various reasons, are welcome to stay on campus and arrangements are being made to accommodate them on a case by case basis. Some services will continue to be provided to them but on a limited basis, and they are advised that they may be subject to periodic health screenings while on campus. These students will be expected to comply with the standard CDC guidelines and any additional directives from the Franklin County Health Department.

Commencement 2020: Pursuant to the recent CDC guidelines, which include the eight-week high alert period and most recent social distancing protocols, the University has decided to postpone this year's commencement ceremony to a later date. Realizing how important this is to our students, their families and our Ottawa community, the university is currently considering holding commencement at the opening of school next fall here in Ottawa.

Academic Classes: All students, regardless of your location, are reminded that your classes are scheduled to be taught at their regularly scheduled time through distance learning. In the coming days, you will be provided with more information on how you will resume classes through the prescribed distance learning formats starting Monday, March 23. Faculty are looking forward to continuing to serve you and to delivering the same teaching excellence to which you have become accustomed in face-to-face environs.

Fall 2020 Registration: As a reminder, registration for Fall 2020 is ongoing. Your STAR Corps and academic advisors will continue to be available to assist you with your enrollment and registration. Please feel free to email them for assistance. Advisors are also able to schedule phone or Zoom appointments as needed.

To be absolutely clear, there are **no face-to-face classes** as we utilize distance-learning techniques maintaining the same course schedule for the rest of this semester. Students who are presently at home away from campus are asked to stay in place and prepare to continue their studies from there, students who chose to stay on campus are encouraged to travel home. Finally, students who are currently on campus and unable to return home will be accommodated.

We fully understand how these changes potentially complicate your academic and student experience. We are so sorry that this circumstance has affected all of us in so many ways. Please rest assured that Ottawa University Kansas is committed to maintaining our rigorous academics, our quest to prepare you for your life of personal significance, and our inclusive mission of ensuring that every student is served. That tradition continues despite these unprecedented disruptions.

Continued updates can be found on our website at www.ottawa.edu/coronavirus and students are encouraged to monitor their university issued email.