



Tuesday, March 17, 2020

Dear Heidelberg Community,

In light of our announcement last night to close the campus as of Sunday, March 22, we want to provide some new information about online classes for the rest of the semester.

In an effort to alleviate some of the stress students are facing as they are now tasked with packing up and moving out of their campus residences quickly, we have pushed back the date of the start of online instruction.

All courses will now resume online on Monday, March 23, 2020.

In addition to easing some of the stress on students, this extension gives them more time to prepare for online learning and to contact their teachers with any questions. This brief extension will also allow faculty more time to transition to an online learning environment. Faculty members who have questions or need resource assistance should reach out to the Owen Center for Teaching and Learning. Interim Executive Director Dr. Courtney DeMayo Pugno and Instructional Technologist Rebecca Frank are happy to help.

An Important Message for Residential Students Regarding Move-Out

To remove any ambiguity or confusion about students staying on campus or returning from Spring Break, here's what you need to know:

- Students who are currently on campus and living in on-campus housing should pack belongings and leave campus immediately.
- Students returning from Spring Break are to retrieve and remove their belongings and depart campus as soon as possible. We expect each student to finish their move-out in about one hour.
- The deadline for all students to move out of campus is Sunday, March 22. If you have special circumstances and are unable to leave by that time, you should contact the Office of Residence Life & Housing.
- Gatherings, parties, and celebrations on campus will not be tolerated due to health concerns for students, their families, and the campus community.

We have established these regulations because we are in the midst of a very serious and unprecedented health crisis. Our top priority is and will continue to be the safety, health, and well-being of everyone in our campus community. Our decisions are based on laws and guidelines set forth by local healthcare officials, state, and federal government agencies. We need to take them seriously. One of the requirements strongly recommends limiting gatherings to no more than 10 people. We hope each of you will take responsibility to help protect yourself and those around you.

If you have questions about online classes, please email academicaffairs@heidelberg.edu. If you have questions about moving out of on-campus housing, please email reslife@heidelberg.edu or call 419-448-2058. The office will be staffed from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. this week. General questions about coronavirus or campus operations during the coming months can be submitted to www.heidelberg.edu/coronavirusquestions.

Finally, we want to express again that we have cancelled the 2020 Commencement ceremony on May 17th with regret and shared sadness. The coronavirus is a major threat to all of us. But as we said last night, we are thinking about possible ways to award, recognize, and celebrate our seniors at a later date.

We sincerely appreciate everyone's patience and understanding. We will provide updates with additional information about the academic calendar for the remainder of the semester as those details are finalized.

Sincerely,
Rob Huntington, President
Beth Schwartz, Vice President for Academic Affairs & Provost
Chris Abrams, Dean of Student Affairs