



March 13, 2020

To Our Oakwood University Family and Huntsville Community,

The State of Alabama and federal public health officials advise that COVID-19 is now a pandemic and the right time for decisive action is now. Given today's first reported case in the State of Alabama, we are escalating our institutional response to further protect our students, faculty, staff, alumni, supporters and our larger Huntsville community.

As of March 13, 2020, Oakwood University students are asked to begin preparations to leave campus by Friday, March 20, 2020. Standard campus hours of operation remain in place for all University employees. All Spring 2020 face-to-face classes will be converted to social distance teaching through an online format beginning, Monday, March 23, 2020.

When we first updated our community on March 2, few understood how rapidly our approach to campus life could be disrupted, broadly and in many unanticipated ways. As COVID-19 continues to emerge and spread, and as public health leaders have offered more definitive guidance, with prayerful consideration, we understand that our campus community has a significant role in the concerted public health response to this regional, national and global threat.

Updates will be shared via D2L, text, email and posted online on the Oakwood University website as new information becomes available:  
<https://www2.oakwood.edu/oakwood-university-coronavirus-covid-19-update/>.  
If students have any questions about academic operations, they are encouraged to check D2L or contact the University at (256) 726-7000.

<b>Special Event Cancellations</b>	All Oakwood University sponsored special events for the month of April will be cancelled based on the advisory issued by the State of Alabama to postpone or cancel all gatherings and events of 500 individuals or more. For the
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	University, this includes the cancellation of Alumni Homecoming Week and its related events, the UNCF Gala, retiree banquet and all other student events. In mid-April, all scheduled May events, including graduation, will be reviewed and timely updates will be provided.
<b>Bookstore</b>	<p>The bookstore will provide free shipping labels to any student to ship their books back to the bookstore at the end of the semester.</p> <p>Students using print books may return the print books and request access to the digital version (if available for the course) for the rest of the Spring 2020 semester.</p>
<b>Graduation</b>	The date for graduation remains unchanged until further notice.
<b>Academic Continuity Plan</b>	All Spring 2020 face-to-face classes will be converted to social distance teaching through an alternative format beginning, Monday, March 23, 2020. This means that the content of all courses in which students are currently enrolled will be presented virtually.
<b>Student Services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dining services and the Market will continue regular operating hours until Sunday, March 22, 2020.</li> <li>• The Treehouse Bistro will continue to be available to serve the campus community until further notice.</li> <li>• Residence halls will be closing March 20, 2020 and we will credit students a prorated portion (i.e. unused amount) of all residence hall fees and previously purchased meal plans.</li> <li>• International students and all other students who may require extended housing accommodations should confer with their residential deans for assistance.</li> </ul>
<b>Student Workers</b>	Student workers may continue to work until Friday, March 20, 2020. Students should speak to their supervisors if they desire to work after March 20, 2020.
<b>Transportation</b>	Campus transportation services will provide a schedule of services on Monday, March 16, 2020.
<b>Registrar's Office</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beginning Monday, March 16, 2020 <b>ALL</b> students need to complete advising and registration, for Summer 2020, Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 prior to leaving campus.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Class of 2020 graduates: All students awaiting approval for graduation must meet with their department chairs to develop a plan to meet requirements for graduation. <b>March 20, 2020 is the deadline for ALL academic requests and appeals for the 2019-2020 academic year.</b></li> <li>• Class of 2021 graduates: Full year course registration and graduation application must be completed prior to leaving campus.</li> <li>• Students may meet with faculty on Monday, March 16, 2020 and Tuesday, March 17, 2020 for registration, advising, and other concerns. Faculty will remain accessible to students throughout the week.</li> </ul> <p><b>March 20, 2020 is also the deadline to withdraw from classes taught during this Spring 2020 semester with a W grade.</b></p>
<b>Library Services</b>	The Library will be open for its regular hours until Friday, March 20, 2020. Throughout the semester Library services will remain available virtually. Access to all databases, e-journals, e-books, tutorials, research consultations, digital archives and chats will be available.
<b>Center for Student Success</b>	The Center for Student Success will continue to provide student support.
<b>Child Development Lab</b>	The Child Development Lab will remain open until further notice.
<b>LEAP</b>	All LEAP courses will continue as regularly scheduled.
<b>OU Employees - Faculty &amp; Staff</b>	Faculty and staff will continue to report to campus to support normal operations during this transition period until further notice.
<b>Restricted Travel</b>	Oakwood University is prohibiting all international travel and non-essential domestic travel effective immediately for the remainder of the academic year.

Thank you for your love and prayers for Oakwood University. Be blessed and please stay safe and well. We will come back to you very shortly with further updates as more information becomes available.

Yours, along with the hundreds of employees who serve our young people every day in service,



Leslie N. Pollard, Ph.D., D.Min, MBA  
President