



# OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY

GOD FIRST!

Dear Oakwood Students:

Welcome to our Spring 2021 semester. Your decision to return to or study at Oakwood University is significant. We continue to maintain safety measures consistent with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), as well as the State of Alabama statewide health orders. The institution continues to operate in a modified hybrid operations status (a combination of both remote learning and face-to-face learning). As a significant safety measure, all official University travel remains restricted and drastically reduced. Please take note of the following:

## *Academics*

- The spring academic calendar has been modified to reflect a later start date. In order to avoid the risk of departure-and-return outbreak, we have eliminated the Spring Break in 2021. Undergraduate classes began on January 13. Graduate and Adult Learning (LEAP) classes began on January 11. Instruction ends on Friday, April 23. Mental health, non-instructional days are February 23 and March 17, 2021.
- Instructional delivery is in one of three modalities: 100% online (asynchronous), 100% synchronous (face-to-face or virtual), or hybrid (asynchronous and synchronous). The University continues to utilize Desire to Learn (D2L) as its learning management system.
- The University continues to provide professional development and technology training for all faculty, as well as technology and support for all students.
- All face-to-face study abroad programs remain suspended for spring 2021.
- All instructional spaces remain open with adjustments and/or restrictions to reduce density. Instructional spaces will be available only to meet the research or instructional needs of faculty and students. Course staggering will continue to be implemented in spaces that are used heavily or back-to-back to ensure classrooms can be properly disinfected.
- Commencement Exercises for the Class of 2021 are still scheduled for May 7 - 8, 2021.

## *Health and Safety Protocols*

- Health screening approval (including a negative PCR COVID-19 test) is required for all faculty, staff and students. In addition, all employees and students are required to complete virtual COVID-19 and safety protocols. Randomized testing of all faculty, staff, and students will continue throughout the semester.
- In addition to locations provided on the University website of where individuals can locate testing sites is <https://get-tested-covid19.org/>.

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- Faculty, staff, and students must wear a mask in all public places on campus. Mandatory masking indoors, along with signage on the floor and walls to indicate physical distancing, frequent disinfecting of high-touch surfaces, and sanitization stations will continue to occur throughout the campus.
- COVID-19 updates can be found on the University website under the COVID-19 section or by going directly to this link:  
<https://www2.oakwood.edu/oakwood-university-coronavirus-covid-19-update/>.

### ***Residential Life***

- Residence halls and athletic buildings and facilities remain open with adjustments and/or restrictions to reduce density.
- Residence hall lobbies will operate with reduced occupancy, maintaining a social distance of 6 feet between persons and the use of face coverings. Single occupancy rooms are available on a case-by-case basis. Edwards Hall remains closed for Spring 2021.
- Student Activities will be delivered either virtually or in a socially distanced format.
- Dining services have been adjusted to accommodate a reduction in density and includes limited dine-in options with social distancing protocols, as well as increased carry-out and grab-and-go options. Please remember that there are other eating options on campus, such as the Blake Center TreeHouse Bistro.
- The shuttle system will function under modified operations to ensure physical distancing.
- Spring semester sports have been suspended. OU Athletics Department has a modified, phased approach for the resumption of training, practice, as well as intramural sports.

### ***Spiritual Life***

- The Office of Spiritual Life will continue all its current programming and will implement streamed watch party events in designated satellite socially distanced spaces, including “Connect Church,” a hybrid socially-distanced experience that allows for small groups to meet and worship together. Connect Church is a new student-driven, discussion-based, worship initiative, launched last spring. All current programming will also continue virtually via Zoom and/or through social media platforms.
- More information regarding OSLM and the services being provided can be found on the University website at <https://www.ouoslm.com/>.

Once again, we welcome you back home. And always remember, there is no OU without YOU.

Very sincerely,



Leslie Pollard, Ph.D, D.Min, MBA  
President, Oakwood University  
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