

Longwood community,

It may be hard to believe, but we have officially passed the one month of classes mark. Across campus, our community has risen to the occasion, taken personal responsibility, and shown our commitment to public health. Let's keep up the great work!

On that note, a few updates and announcements from across campus related to Covid-19, and one on Wheeler Mall construction:

Wheeler Mall

Work continues to progress on the steam tunnel replacement project along Wheeler Mall, and is moving toward the western side (Wheeler Hall side) of the mall. This will mean that on Tuesday, Sept. 29, new fencing will be installed that blocks the sidewalk between Stevens Hall and Upchurch University Center. To get to Upchurch and central campus from there, you'll have to go around Stevens Hall in front of Cox (see attached map). Crews are still eyeing October--dependent on weather of course--to complete work on the western side of the project and be able to open Brock Commons. Thanks for your ongoing patience with this important project.

Graduation Recognition For the Class of 2020

As I shared in a previous email, the undergraduate and graduate Commencement ceremonies scheduled for Oct. 9-10 on Wheeler Mall and in Jarman have been canceled. In sharing this disappointing news with the class of 2020, Longwood conveyed we were aware some of those undergraduates had long-standing plans to be in Farmville that weekend regardless, and we would work to find an appropriate way they could recognize their accomplishment. Welcoming them to Longwood House rather than to main campus for any official activities has been determined to be the most prudent approach with public health protocols, and today we reached out to them with some details on a series of small-scale, brief personal graduation recognitions, capped at about 15 graduates each, that will take place that Saturday outside at Longwood House hosted by President Reveley. Graduates will be limited to 2 in-person guests, keeping each of these short recognitions under 50 in total attendance, with face coverings and social distancing required, respecting all state, local and campus guidelines. A virtual recognition for our undergraduate students in the class of 2020 is also being considered. A virtual hooding ceremony for graduate students is moving forward for Friday, October 9.

November and December Schedules

Now a month into classes, a few reminders about how the rest of this semester will play out:

- There is no Fall Break this year.
- In-person classes will end on Nov. 24.
- The university will close Nov. 25-27 for the Thanksgiving holiday. Students who need to stay in their residence hall or university-managed housing over the holiday will need to register with the office of Residence and Commuter Life as normal.

- There is a review day scheduled for Monday, Nov. 30, and reading day scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 1. Final exams begin Wednesday, Dec. 2. Most exams will be held online, and students whose exams are fully online can choose to remain home after the Thanksgiving break.
- Residence halls and university-managed housing will remain open throughout the exam period, contingent as always on public health conditions allowing.

Stay safe,

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