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Important Information for the Spring 2020 Semester, March 20, 2020

University of Northern Iowa

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University of Northern Iowa

Important information for the spring 2020 semester

Dear UNI Panthers,

The University of Northern Iowa remains committed to your individual success during this difficult and rapidly changing time. The following email is provided to keep you informed of UNI's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Please review all of the information in this important message. We will continue to keep you informed as the situation changes or new updates are needed through your UNI email address. You can also go to prepare.uni.edu for up-to-date messaging and information for the UNI community.

Online classes for the remainder of the semester and for summer sessions

Based on guidance from the Governor, the CDC, and the Board of Regents, all classes for this semester, and for summer, will be taught online. Temporarily eliminating face-to-face classes is designed to maintain student, faculty, and staff health and is a form of social distancing. By reducing the number of interactions with large groups, we can significantly reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19, and thereby slow the number of cases. [Mayo Clinic](#) and [John Hopkins](#) have both provided useful information on the importance of these actions.

The Faculty teaching each of your courses will be reaching out to you to help guide you through the remote delivery of class materials for the Spring 2020 semester. Please make note of the preferred method of communication for each instructor (email, eLearning). You should also reach out to instructors or department heads with questions or for assistance with your courses as they transition to online instruction.

Students who need help with technology and internet access are encouraged to visit the [Remote Access](#) site for resources.

Academic support services remain available to students. The Learning Center will continue operating via The Learning Center REMOTE ([TLCRemote](#)) as long as we continue with online classes. [TLCRemote](#) will be available 24 hours a day, 7 days per week. UNI Students who need academic support can explore their options by going to tlc.uni.edu/. Questions can be directed to TheLearningCenter@uni.edu.

Temporary changes to academic deadlines and policy

Several changes have been made to help students navigate unexpected challenges that may result from the initiatives taken to combat the spread of COVID-19 this semester.

- The last day to drop a class without an “F” has been extended by two weeks until 4:30 pm, April 9th.
- The last day to change a course from graded to Credit/No Credit has been extended two weeks until 4:30 pm April 9th.
- The limitation preventing the use of Credit/No Credit grading for classes counting toward majors, minors and the LAC is waived for all undergraduate courses. Undergraduate students choosing to change from graded to Credit/No Credit during Spring 2020 may count those classes toward any program. Credit-only classes do not impact GPA calculations. Please note that a grade of C- is required to receive the credit.
- Limitations for Credit/No Credit courses for graduate courses is relaxed; however, due to certain post-graduate licensing requirements, graduate students must still submit a student request to the Graduate College to ensure their program is eligible.

Registration for Summer and Fall 2020 classes (Monday, March 30 – Thursday, April 15, 2020)

Registration for summer and fall classes will continue as scheduled beginning on Monday, March 30. For undergraduate students, academic advisors will conduct online meetings for scheduling and registration assistance. Advisors will be reaching out to you to provide information on scheduling and holding online advising. You should also reach out to your advisor with questions or for assistance.

Graduate students should reach out to your graduate program coordinators for assistance with advising and scheduling courses.

Please check your Student Center to determine your specific date/time to register for the summer/fall semesters. Also note any holds you may have on your upcoming semester registration.

- For advisor holds, communicate directly with your assigned academic advisor.
- For any other holds, use the “Details” link in the “Holds” box in Student Center to determine how to remove the hold and contact information for the appropriate campus office.

Will any of these changes impact the completion of the Spring 2020 semester?

The transition to online courses will not impact the completion of the semester. We are not planning to either end the semester early or extend the length. As currently scheduled, we expect regular classes to end on May 1 and finals to be held the week of May 4.

Due to guidance prohibiting large events, we are canceling the large commencement ceremony, but that does not impact completion of the semester or graduation. Spring graduates will be encouraged to participate in the Fall 2020 Commencement ceremony and an email will be sent directly to Spring graduates containing additional information and guidance in the upcoming weeks.

Please remember that graduation and commencement are different things. You still need to **apply for graduation** in your Student Center if you are finished with coursework and plan to graduate.

Keeping yourself and your loved ones safe

If you have traveled to a location with a heightened risk of exposure to COVID-19, please strongly consider **self-monitoring** and maintaining reduced contact with others for a two week period in order to protect those around you from infection. If you feel sick, or experience any symptoms such as **fever, cough or shortness of breath**, please stay home or isolate yourself away from others. Contact your health care provider or the UNI Health Clinic through their **website** or at 319-273-2009 for further guidance. If you need to miss or delay coursework, contact your instructors and/or the **Dean of Students**.

Who should you contact with questions?

You should always try first to contact the person or office most directly connected with the questions you have. Please continue to refer to the **prepare.uni.edu/** page for information. A few suggestions of contacts who may be able to answer questions are included below.

- For questions related to a class, please contact first the instructor, then the department head. Contact information for both can be found in the **UNI Directory** where the “Advanced Search” option will allow you to look for contacts by department or office.
- For questions about advising or registration, please contact first your academic advisor, the **Office of Academic Advising** or the **Office of the Registrar**.
- For questions about graduate education, please contact your program coordinator and then the **Graduate College**.
- For questions about technology needs, please see information on **Remote Access** site and use the **Service Hub** site for specific requests.
- For financial questions contact **Financial Aid** or **Business Operations**.
- If, after attempting to find answers from the primary person or office, you are still experiencing a challenge or difficulty, requests can be submitted to the **Assistance due to COVID-19 campus changes** site in the **Dean of Students office**.