

Subject: UWA's Operational Plan for Fall Semester 2020
Date: Thursday, July 23, 2020 at 12:48:33 PM Central Daylight Time
From: UWA President
To: All Faculty and Staff, All Students
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Operational Plan for Fall Semester 2020

Dear UWA Family,

Early in the pandemic, the term “new normal” worked its way more prominently into our conversations, and now it seems that we should instead reference the “current normal.” Our [fall operations plan](#), which is steered by input and expertise from the major areas of campus, offers as much detail and as many specifics as possible, along with the flexibility that has carried us successfully thus far. Classroom instruction, campus residences, work environments, extracurricular activities—these will all inevitably be different from what we knew when this year began, while also meeting the needs of a thriving campus community. We will certainly maintain the health and safety protocols already in place, and we will follow the appropriate guidance in establishing any new protocols necessary.

The coming of a fall semester is always exciting, but this year’s fall comes with an abundance of unpredictability. While we have given every effort to guiding campus operations as safely and efficiently as possible, most everyone has experienced frustration and angst at some point when concrete answers seem scarce. We have said for many weeks that we expect to carry on this fall with as much as we can do safely to maintain normalcy, and this hope remains. However, we desire not to give a false sense of reality or create unrealistic expectations which we cannot manage by drawing this far in advance a daily outline of what the fall semester will or will not entail.

As we forge on to a new semester, I ask that you rely on your many strengths as members of the greater University community, assisting others where you are able, and also not hesitating to ask for help from your colleagues. Many times I have called upon members of our campus to be collaborative, innovative, and supportive, and these attributes are necessary now more than ever. We have continually reminded each other that we are in this together, and together we will succeed. As the pandemic continues to take hold of so much of our daily lives, we are indeed stronger together, and safer apart, continuing to adapt safely. We have an obligation to each other to protect the health and safety of our campus, and in the spirit of community that lives at UWA, I believe we can do that by following the guidance set forth by our state and nation’s government and health care guidance, which is reflected in [this plan](#).