

Friday, June 19, 2020 at 4:42 PM Eastern Daylight Time

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**Subject:** Education Reimagined for Fall – Warner Online  
**Date:** Friday, June 19, 2020 at 4:42 PM Eastern Daylight Time  
**From:** Warner School Dean's Office

Dear Warner Students,

As we plan for fall semester and consider the implications of living and learning in a world with COVID-19 and the needs of our community, we have been guided by the following principles:

- **Safety.** How can we keep our community safe physically and also create a feeling of safety that is conducive to learning? Given the fact that our students come from so many schools, organizations, and communities, how can we best keep the University and Warner people healthy and safe, and prevent possible transmission to those communities?
- **Quality of education.** How can we continue to provide a world class education and prepare our students to contribute to solving some of our most pressing challenges? Given the requirements of social distancing and personal protective equipment/masks, what course delivery method will best meet our educational goals?
- **Manage the uncertainty.** How can we be prepared for a surge/increase in cases in the fall? How do we create a stable approach that allows faculty, staff and students to best plan and prepare for a successful semester and manage the needs of work, family, and study?
- **Keep students on track in their programs.** How can we best support our students to continue making progress in their programs and complete their degrees?

Taking this all into consideration, we have come to place in which we are **reimagining education** at Warner for the fall of 2020. How can we leverage our strengths as well as adhere to our guiding principles above? The answer... **move all instruction online for the fall of 2020.**

We will follow the standard calendar – with classes starting on Wednesday, August 26<sup>th</sup>, and running through Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>. Classes will be designed as appropriate for the learning goals for the course using synchronous and/or asynchronous instruction, and will occur at the times/dates indicated on the schedule. We will also ensure that international students meet all their U.S. visa and home country requirements and students whose program requires an internship can complete this critical component.

If you have already registered for fall, you are all set. If you have not registered for fall yet, it will help us with our planning if you can register now. If you have any registration questions, please visit <https://www.warner.rochester.edu/students/matriculated/registration> or reach out to [registrar@warner.rochester.edu](mailto:registrar@warner.rochester.edu).

The Warner School is uniquely poised to do this well. We have been offering online courses and learning experiences for years. Faculty leaders in online learning, as well as expertise developed at Warner, have been underpinning many of the University efforts in online learning and instruction.

We do not yet have all the answers. We have greatly appreciated the participation of faculty, staff and students in our town hall sessions this week. One of the things we heard very clearly from faculty, staff and students is that they miss a sense community and connectedness. We will spend our energy and innovation in this space. We are committed to further enhancing our virtual learning community beyond instruction, including:

- Resuming Wednesday Lunch Talks virtually and providing other opportunities to share and learn together as a community.
- Working creatively with the state education department, schools, and organizations to structure meaningful internships and field experiences so they are as safe as possible and provide rich learning experiences.
- Supporting access to courses and other activities at Warner so that all students can participate fully.
- Importantly, engaging together as a school to address pressing social issues and make advances in addressing racism and creating a more inclusive, supportive community.

We want to reassure you that there are some things we know for sure:

- International students will be able to progress toward degree completion in ways that meet U.S. and home country requirements.
- Our faculty will continue existing lines of research and afford our students quality research experiences.
- Writing Support Services, Quantitative Consulting Services, and Career Services will continue to provide support as you advance through your program and look to the future.
- Faculty will continue to offer student support for advising and be available for office hours.

While we would love to see LeChase Hall bustling with students engaging with each other in classrooms and hallways, we are confident that it is the right decision to offer courses online for the fall of 2020. We are working hard to support our faculty and staff as they continue to develop and build engaging learning experiences and reimagine their fall courses and programs.

Now that we have made this decision, we will begin conversations about the use of LeChase Hall and its staffing and use by students in the fall. We will be in touch frequently this summer to keep you apprised of plans and gather additional input.

We will be updating the [Warner School Covid-19 page](#) with key communications and frequently asked questions. As always, please let us know if you have suggestions, questions, or concerns.

Meliora,  
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