

Academic Continuity - Spring 2020

FAQ for Students

March 18, 2020

Q: Will my distance learning courses differ from my in-person courses, apart from being conducted online?

A: Yes. While your courses will retain learning goals, they will necessarily need to change in various ways as we adjust to this new situation. Syllabi will change, assignments may change, exam formats may change. Different courses will be adjusted in different ways as we work to design various opportunities and strategies for you to stay engaged with your professors and your classmates, as well as with the course material. Here are some [strategies to help you succeed in a distance learning format](#).

Q: What should I do if I am worried about my internet access at home?

A: Both GoogleMeet and Zoom include a telephone-in option. Let your professor know that you will be dialing in. The number to call is included in the meeting invitation. Additionally, some internet companies are offering free broadband internet for 60 days with no connection charges (more info here [Charter/Spectrum](#), or [Comcast](#)). You may wish to discuss these options with your household members. Finally, please note that Zoom allows users to insert a virtual background into your display window. If you are having trouble with any GoogleMeet, Zoom or other internet issues please email Helpdesk-Request@holycross.edu. This will create a “ticket” request that will be routed to a technician to assist you.

Q: What resources for academic support are available for students with regard to distance learning?

A: Academic Services and Learning Resources (ASLR) has added a page to its website related to supporting students during the College's transition to distance learning. The page is titled [Academic Support Continuity](#) and details how students can engage with our office staff and tutoring programs for remote academic support. Students will also be able to meet with professional tutors or peer consultants in the Writer's Workshop for sessions that include video, chat, and a collaborative editing board. See "make an appointment" on holycross.edu/writersworkshop for more details. Finally, the Library has created a special guide for Spring 2020: <https://libguides.holycross.edu/SpecialSpring2020>

Q: Will I be able to access library resources?

A: In-person access to the physical space of Dinand and the other libraries will not be permitted after Wednesday, March 18th. However, the librarians are working to expand the ways in which they can support student needs virtually. In the meantime, please consult the website mentioned above: <https://libguides.holycross.edu/SpecialSpring2020>.

Q: What are the expectations for student participation/attendance in class?

A: Students are expected to fully engage in class meetings and assignments, but faculty recognize that students will face many different kinds of challenges related to living and studying at home. Students who are finding it difficult to meet their academic obligations for any reason should contact their Class Dean.

Q: What are the expectations for office hours for professors and class deans?

A: Professors are expected to hold weekly virtual office hours for students and to communicate to students how those will work. Students should be in contact with their class deans as usual, by contacting Lynn Levesque at 508-793-2532 or by email at llevesqu@holycross.edu.

Q: I have a documented academic accommodation. How will this work in terms of distance learning?

A: Professors are working with the Office of Accessibility Services to adapt documented academic accommodations to a distance learning format. If you have any questions, please contact [Accessibility Services](#). You are also encouraged to discuss accommodations with your faculty member.

Q: What is the deadline for withdrawing from a course, if necessary?

A: We are extending the last date to withdraw from a class from Tuesday, April 7 to the last day of classes, Monday, May 4.

Q: How will advising period and enrollment work this semester?

A: We are discussing the advising and enrollment process and will update you with a plan for these processes as soon as possible.

Q: Will the Academic Calendar change?

A: We have decided to proceed with the academic calendar as is, after we resume formal classes on Monday, March 23. This means that your professors will need to adjust their syllabi accordingly, so please pay close attention to changes and ask questions if something is unclear to you. Exam period also remains the same at this time, although the nature of your final exam may change.

Q: Will the Academic Conference be held this year?

A: The Academic Conference will not be held as an in-person event. A working group will be considering whether we can hold a modified version in a virtual format. More information will follow as decisions are made.

Q: Will the Summer Research Program, Summer Session and/or Maymesters take place?

A: All Maymesters have been cancelled. We have not yet made decisions on Summer Research and Summer Session.

Q: What will happen to Commencement?

A: The College has made a commitment that we will hold Commencement/Senior Week activities to celebrate the accomplishments of the Class of 2020. However, we simply cannot commit to a specific date at this point.