



Washington University in St. Louis

BROWN SCHOOL

Email Communication: March 14, 2020

Dear Student Colleagues,

The world is facing a global public health crisis that is unprecedented within our lifetimes. I know this must be creating some anxiety, discomfort and many questions about how it will affect your time as a Brown School student. This email contains information that we hope is helpful. Additionally, I want to encourage you to visit [the Brown School website](#), where you will find consistently updated information, as well as a growing list of FAQ's.

This email covers the following topics:

- *Spring Break Extended*
- *Moving Course Work Online*
- *Practicum*
- *Brown School and Campus Services*
- *Student Workers*
- *Graduate Housing: Quadrangle*
- *Staying Healthy*
- *Additional Questions*

Spring Break Extended

The university has extended spring break for an additional week. This extension is meant to provide additional time to transition many academic and school operations off campus. All classes will take advantage of a range of alternative learning options (on-line classes, conference call discussions, postings to Canvas and many others). Further, given that the public health threats are expected to evolve, next week gives us the opportunity to expand ways to keep our community healthy and safe.

Know that your learning and the academic mission of the school is a top priority, and we will work diligently to provide high quality learning opportunities for you as we move off-campus. Our faculty is working to ensure that you will not miss content or skill development opportunities and any missed educational time will be addressed in a range of ways.

Moving Coursework Online

In order to reduce the risk of community spread among students, faculty and staff, coursework will resume the week of March 23rd (and in a small number of courses on March 21st) using online and telecommunications platforms. You can expect to receive messages from the

Associate Deans of our social policy, public health and social work programs detailing this transition. Additionally, you should also hear from your course instructors with directions regarding how to resume your coursework remotely.

We understand that moving to online learning will present some challenges for both students and faculty. Faculty are being provided training and supports to assist in this transition. Additionally, in order to help students anticipate, understand and navigate this transition, [information and resources have been made available online](#).

If you don't have reliable internet or computer access, please contact your academic advisor or [Danielle Bristow \(danielle_bristow@wustl.edu\)](mailto:danielle_bristow@wustl.edu) who will be able to provide additional information.

Commitment to high quality instruction; high levels of engagement with you; making sure that this gap in class is made up across the rest of the semester are all important to us.

Practicum

The Office of Field Education is working to support students and field instructors through this disruption. Our goal is to continue your field learning, and we also know that as the health threats evolve, so may your field experiences. Here are some resources that can also be found on [the Brown School website](#).

- [Field Education Continuity Plan for Disruption of Field Placement Activities and Field Education Strategies for Remote Competency Development](#): This is designed to guide you in identifying alternate activities for remote work.
- [Documentation of Contingency Plans](#): This is the process we will use to document contingency plans.

The Office of Field Education created [a survey for students to submit questions or concerns about practicum/internship](#). They will respond to questions submitted through the survey within 2-3 hours of receipt. We will also work with communications to keep the Brown School COVID-19 website up to date with field education information as it is changing rapidly.

[Additional information about practicum including FAQ's can be found here.](#)

Brown School and Campus Services

The attached document is the most current information about the Brown School and Campus Services such as the Communication Lab, StatLab, Habif Health and Wellness Center, Disability Resources and more. Information will also be posted on [the Brown School website](#). If there is a service not listed, please contact Danielle Bristow.

Student Workers

If you are a student worker, we know that you rely on the work you do at the Brown School for living expenses. We are committed to being supportive and flexible on how you can contribute and still earn your wages.

Therefore, we are asking each of you to be in touch with your direct supervisors next week to figure out how you may still be able to work your normal hours from off campus. In most cases, we hope your supervisor can provide you with work that you can do electronically. Supervisors should be coming up with a plan to support each of their student workers.

If the work you are doing is considered essential to the core academic and research mission, then your supervisor will get approval from the Dean's Office and you will be able to come to campus to complete your work. In situations where there is not sufficient work that can be completed remotely, there is a possibility that you will be deployed to other parts of the school. We will do everything possible to honor our commitment to each of you.

Graduate Housing: Quadrangle

If you currently reside in WUSTL graduate housing through Quadrangle, you are allowed to remain. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact [Danielle Bristow](#).

Staying Healthy

During a public health emergency, it is important that we take care of each other and ourselves. Part of that is ensuring that we have the most up-to-date information on how to limit the spread of illness. The [Centers for Disease Control](#) has information on how to minimize the transmission of COVID-19.

We are grateful that so far we have not seen any cases of the virus at Washington University, and that there have been only a small number of confirmed or suspected cases in the region, with no signs at this time of community spread. We are hopeful that this will continue to be the case, and also aware that this situation is changing quickly and we need to be prepared.

Whether or not any symptoms have appeared, if you have [traveled from the locations listed here](#) in the past 14 days or have had direct contact with a patient with confirmed COVID-19 infection in the past 14 days, we ask that you take the following steps:

- Students should notify the [Habif Health and Wellness Center](#) at **314-935-6666**.

We are all feeling anxious right now regarding the uncertainty that awaits us as a community. Elevated levels of anxiety are to be expected in times of uncertainty- it is our body's way of telling us that we need to be alert and prepared. However, uncertainty often has a strong tendency to turn normative levels of anxiety into problematic levels of distress.

[We have pulled together information, resources, and strategies](#) to help you manage your mental well-being while we, as a community, come together to unite around the educational and research mission of our school.

Additional Questions

If you have additional questions that have not been answered in this email or on the Brown School and Wash U websites, we are here to help. You can always reach out to your faculty, academic and field advisors. Additionally, below is a list of faculty and staff that are ready to assist:

- For questions about your individual courses, reach out to your instructors directly.
- For student support, contact your Academic Advisor and/or Danielle Bristow at danielle_bristow@wustl.edu.
- For Field Education, your Field Advisor or Jenni Harpring at jharpring@wustl.edu. We have also created a dedicated [COVID-19 Field Education page](#).
- For student worker hours, contact your current supervisor.

- For international students, contact Tammy Orahood at orahood@wustl.edu.
- For all other university policies in light of the COVID-19 outbreak, visit <https://emergency.wustl.edu/>.

I want to assure you that your education and health remain our top priorities. We ask for your continued patience as we do our best to respond quickly and nimbly to a consistently changing public health emergency.

Finally, I and many Brown School leaders will be available to you next week. We will be holding a virtual town hall via Zoom on **Thursday, March 19th at 10am (Central Time)**.

You can participate in this meeting with this link:

<https://zoom.us/j/388935446>

Meeting ID: 388 935 446

You may also participate by phone. Dial in by your location:

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 388 935 446

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/aczZRydSSW>

Additionally, we will meet via Facebook Live. This can be accessed via the Brown School Facebook page on **Friday, March 20 at 9am and 2pm (Central Time)**. Additional details for this are forthcoming.

I am grateful to your flexibility, resilience and partnership. We will be in touch frequently, so please do continue to pay attention to communication from our community.

Gratefully,

Mary

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