January 2020

Message from the Dean of Students

Greetings Catamount Families and Friends!

Happy New Year! I hope that you had a wonderful holiday with your student. It is my sincere wish that 2020 will be an amazing year for all Catamounts, their families, and the ones they love! As you might be experiencing, students have been given the gift of an extended break this year as classes will not resume until January 13. Before they know it, they will need to be ready for things such as a new class schedule, fraternity/sorority recruitment, housing sign-up for 2020-21, exams, papers, class projects, social life, and much more. This newsletter is to remind you of some important matters to discuss with your student before they return to campus. Remember, we are partners in the education of your student and we thank you for all that you do.

Please feel free to contact me if you have specific questions and/or concerns.

Sincerely,

BaShaun H. L. Smith
Important Information for Families

Happy New Year and New Decade Catamount Family!

This academic year is a season of change:

- Several units are in new locations: Opening of Semester
- OneStop has transformed from a physical location to a virtual resource: Virtual OneStop

To aid with the Opening of the Semester, a new Opening Service Center (OSC) concept in Killian Annex 136 will be staffed as the term gets underway:

- Thursday, January 9 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
- Friday, January 10 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
- Saturday, January 11 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
- Sunday, January 12 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
- Monday, January 13 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
- Tuesday, January 14 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

(Special Note: Student Financial Aid has moved to the west wing of Camp Building, but Financial Aid representatives
will also help staff the OSC.

**Student Accounts/Cashiers** are now located at the first-floor Killian Annex service desk and offices:

- Student Accounts/Cashiers will specialize in cash payment and billing issues

**Unsure where to go or direct someone for assistance or answers?**
Go to [Opening of Semester](#) or
Go to [Virtual OneStop](#) or
Go to the Opening Service Center in Killian Annex 136 during its hours of operation

For your convenience, the opening of the semester website lists the office hours of numerous units and services.

**Welcome to Spring 2020!**

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**Welcome Back to Cullowhee and a Healthy and Happy New Year**

As the spring semester is getting underway, so is the 2020 flu season. I want to update you on flu activity in our area and ask for your help in preventing the spread of flu in our community.

Influenza, the flu, is a contagious respiratory virus that can cause mild to severe illness and can pose high risks for people with certain health conditions or compromised immune systems.

The Center for Disease Control's (CDC) surveillance map shows widespread flu, or flu-like illness, activity throughout the southeast United States. More specifically, the NC
Department of Health and Human Services’ Surveillance Summary demonstrates increased flu activity at this point compared to the past two years in North Carolina. To help avoid the flu, prevent the spread of flu, and to keep our campus healthy, the information below has been shared with your student:

- The first and most important step in protecting yourself from the flu is to GET a flu vaccine. It is not too late to get a flu shot. While the flu shot may not prevent you from getting the flu, it is proven to be effective in helping reduce the severity of symptoms and shorten recovery time if you do get sick. Health Services still has shots available.
- Know the symptoms of the flu, and seek medical care at Health Services if you experience these symptoms:
  - Fever of 100.4F/38C degrees or higher or feeling feverish (not everyone with the flu has a fever)
  - Headaches and/or body aches
  - Cough and/or sore throat
  - Runny or stuffy nose
  - Chills
  - Fatigue
  - Nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea (most common in children)
- Practice good prevention habits by WASHING your hands routinely. Particularly after you have touched surfaces in common areas--avoid touching your face. Wash your hands with either soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer rubbing your hands together until they are dry.
- Cover your mouth if you need to cough or sneeze, using a tissue or your elbow if necessary.
- Prevent the spread of germs! If you become ill, self-isolate until at least 24 hours after your fever subsides. If you visit a medical provider, ask for a mask, even if you are not experiencing symptoms, you may be exposed while at that medical office.

If you are diagnosed with the flu, the Office of Student Affairs can assist with documented medical absence notifications to professors. This may allow you the necessary time to recuperate without further spreading illness to the rest of the campus.

Thank You,
Pam Buchanan
Director, Health Services

Residential Living & Common Housing Questions

This is the time of year that many students have housing-related questions. The most common are 1) Do I have to live on campus next year?; 2) If I want to change rooms in the spring semester, how do I request the change?; and 3) How can I apply to be an RA for next year? Detailed information is on the Residential Living webpage but the following are general answers to those questions:

1) Do I have to live on campus next year? WCU has a two-year residency requirement as outlined in Policy 96. First-year and transfer students have specific requirements for living on campus as outlined in that policy. Please encourage your student to check his/her WCU email account for specific information regarding Policy 96.

2) If I want to change rooms in the spring semester, please review the Residence Life website, contact the building Resident Director, Graduate Community Coordinator or Assistant Director for Residence Life in the Residential Living Office in Brown Hall (2nd floor).

3) How can I apply to be an RA for next year? The RA position allows students the opportunity to earn money while gaining experience that will help them to develop skills that apply to any career choice. Students who are interested in learning more should watch for notifications about information sessions and/or contact a member of the Residential Living staff for details about the application process and timeline.

2020-2021 Financial Aid Application

If your student plans to be enrolled in the 2020-21 academic year, it is never too early to complete the FAFSA. The FAFSA is the primary document used for consideration for Financial Aid and must be completed on
an annual basis. If you haven't taken the time to complete the FAFSA, now would be a great time to submit for the next academic school year.

Fraternity & Sorority Recruitment

At WCU, spring is the time most students are eligible to participate in fraternity/sorority recruitment. To be eligible for recruitment, students must have a minimum of 12 earned hours and a 2.5 GPA. Students interested in participating in recruitment and/or learning more about Greek life at WCU should contact the Greek Student Engagement and Development Office.

Congratulations December 2019 Graduates

Academic Check-in

Some students are pleased with their academic performances in the fall semester. Other students know they need to make improvements to reach their true potential. If your student is one in the former category, please encourage them to keep up the good work. College is a marathon that requires steady progress and continuous work throughout. If your student is one in the latter category, please encourage them to keep working hard. Like any marathon, college requires a steady pace and is not won or lost in the first few miles.

If your student needs or wants to make improvements to their academic performance, recommend that they make a success plan at the beginning of the spring semester. Encourage your student to visit Tutoring Services for
assistance. The Writing and Learning Commons (Belk 207) and Mathematics Tutoring Center (Stillwell 455) promotes student success through math and course tutoring, writing support, academic skills consultation, exam prep activities is a great resource for students. Students can also speak with advisors and faculty members early in the semester to make sure they are progressing successfully. Finally, ask your student to review their course schedule for the spring semester to ensure it is accurate.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration

**MLK Week Theme:** Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Legacy of Connection: The Story of U.S.

Dr. Oralene Anderson Graves Simmons will be our guest speaker, January 22, 7:00 pm, Bardo Fine and Performing Arts Center. Dr. Simmons is an internationally recognized civil rights leader, is the award-winning visionary founder of Asheville's annual Martin Luther King, Jr., Prayer Breakfast and distinguished recipient of the national MLK Commission’s "Making of the King Holiday Award" presented to her by Mrs. Coretta Scott King. Simmons speaks and teaches widely, inspiring audiences locally, nationally, and globally, about her journey in civil rights along a path of non-violence in the tradition of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. She is currently working on a memoir based on her inspirational lectures about her life, titled ‘Journey to Myself.’

A native of Western North Carolina, Ms. Simmons is the founding president of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Association of Asheville and Buncombe County and former co-chair of the North Carolina State Martin Luther King, Jr., Holiday Commission. For her pioneering civil rights work in the early 1960s, especially for her singular and courageous role in integrating all-white Mars Hill College in 1961, Ms. Simmons first gained worldwide recognition when she was featured as a young leader in both Jet and Time magazines, and later was honored with Mrs. Coretta Scott King at the United Nations headquarters in New York City in 1990.
Important Dates

January 8        Textbook Rental begins
January 9 - 14   Opening Service Center Open
January 10       Residence Halls Open
January 13       First Day of Classes
January 13 - 17  Drop/Add
January 20       MLK, Jr. Holiday
January 22       MLK, Jr. Speaker, 7:00 pm
February 1       Scholarship Application Deadline

Student Activities Calendar
Division of Student Affairs
Western Carolina University
Cullowhee, NC 28723

You are receiving this email because you are a member of the extended Western Carolina University community.
February 2020

Residential Living Room Selection

Greetings Catamount Families and Friends!

For students who successfully submitted a Residence Hall Agreement, room selection begins in March 2020.

For students who have not completed a Residence Hall Agreement, we have accepted the maximum number of Agreements for continuing students and have now moved to a waitlist. If your student wants to be added to the waitlist please have them:

- Pay $150 non-refundable housing deposit
- Visit the Residential Living office in Brown Hall

For all room selection instructions, please visit the website at [http://onlinehousing.wcu.edu](http://onlinehousing.wcu.edu), click on the selection levels under important links for instructions.

For more information visit [Residential Living](http://onlinehousing.wcu.edu) or email housingquestions@email.wcu.edu if you have specific questions.
Health and Human Services
Building Update

Western Carolina University's Health and Human Sciences Building reopened Monday, February 10 after county, state and university officials determined that there were no public health or safety issues at the building in the wake of an incident that resulted in its evacuation Thursday, February 6.

Response teams from Cullowhee Volunteer Fire Department, the Regional Response Team 6 out of Asheville, and Western Carolina University Safety and Risk Management conducted thorough, room-by-room investigations and monitoring of the building throughout the day on February 6, and University Safety and Risk Management continued air-quality testing on Friday, February 7. These concluded with no findings.

As a result, the North Carolina Department of Public Health, Jackson County Department of Public Health, and University Safety and Risk Management have determined that it was safe to return to the building and for classes and laboratory sessions to resume on Monday, February 10. The various health clinics located in WCU's Health and Human Science Building also reopened on Monday.

Out of an abundance of caution, University Safety and Risk Management will continue to monitor air quality and will conduct walk-throughs every hour on the hour this week.
For more information visit [emergency.wcu.edu](https://emergency.wcu.edu).

The safety and security of the WCU community is our top priority. We know that it is important for us to work and learn in a safe, supportive environment. The Emergency Services team has resources in place to enhance our preparedness and ability to respond in an emergency. Review the [Emergency Services website](https://emergency.wcu.edu) for a reminder of services and resources available.

![WCU Building](image)

**WCU ALERTS**

RAVE allows students, faculty, staff, and parents to receive voice, text, and email messages in case of emergency.

- **This is an “opt-out“ system, all students, staff, and faculty are automatically entered into Rave. Please ensure that your students Banner Emergency Contact information is correct to ensure they receive alerts.**
- **For parents, you can sign up for RAVE by registering at [https://getrave.com/login/wcu](https://getrave.com/login/wcu). The Register button is at the top right of the page.**
Intercultural Affairs 10th Birthday

It's Our Birthday!

Intercultural Affairs has reached a milestone. 10 years ago, WCU had the innovative idea to blend services and programs from the Women's Center and Multicultural Affairs. The merger created a new department, called Intercultural Affairs, with a mission to foster a campus environment where students from different backgrounds and cultures feel appreciated, respected and valued.” The inaugural Director was James Felton who strived to promote inclusive values of social justice and human dignity through educational, social, and leadership programs.

In honor of the many lives that have been changed for the better because of ICA, we are hosting a birthday celebration on Wednesday, February 19, 2020, from 2 - 5 pm, and everyone is invited. We will share a brief history and pictures of those who have been impacted by ICA over the years. Please bring your own experiences to share with others.
In celebration, we are launching our ICA 10 campaign. If you love ICA, donate $10 today! With your generous donation, we can continue to reach out to all students and provide even more out of the classroom learning experiences such as Tunnel of Oppression and the Immersion Excursion Annual trip. The window of giving starts now! Make your $10 gift today by visiting give.wcu.edu/ica.

With Warmest Regards,

Dana Patterson, Director
Tacquice Davis, Associate Director
Dean Paulk, Assistant Director
Karin Kimenker, Administrative Associate
Jessica Gonzalez, Graduate Assistant
Riley Jelenick, Graduate Assistant

P.S. We are also accepting testimonials from current and former students that will become a part of our living history and be recorded for future generations. Please consider celebrating with us.

| Love WCU

The month of February marks the 4th annual | Love WCU celebration.
Over the past three years during February, the faculty and staff have rallied in support of scholarships, departmental needs, and athletics, just to name a few. However, this year, for the 4th installment of I Love WCU month, we are also encouraging them to volunteer their time in support of one of the many projects sponsored through the Center of Community Engagement and Service Learning. Additionally, they can volunteer for other causes in the local area. Not only are we celebrating WCU but also the greater Western Carolina region.

This year both volunteerism and donations will count as participation, and we want 100% of our faculty and staff to make a difference in our community.

To follow the progress of I Love WCU month, read updates, and to make a donation visit: https://give.wcu.edu/champions.

Student Democracy Coalition

Established in 2016, the Student Democracy Coalition works to register voters, build awareness of political issues and hold community forums and candidate debates. At a recent planning session, the discussion centered on registering students to vote, an assignment for preparing a frequently asked questions info box for the group's webpage, facilitating with Jackson County Board of Elections to hire polling greeters for the campus precinct place and distribution of Student Government Association-funded get-out-the-vote messages printed on socks (yes, footwear).

Led by students, the nonpartisan group engages faculty, staff, and organizations across campus that are interested in increasing student civic engagement. And 2020 is a big election year, with local, state and presidential races at stake.
“An important message for us to convey for this coming primary is that IDs are not needed if student voters are already registered in Jackson County,” said Liam Currie, a sophomore political science major from Cary. “That’s big. Though for those students who live in Jackson County, including in on-campus residence halls, who are not yet registered, they can register and vote on campus at the same time during early voting with their student ID.”

An on-campus polling place for early voting will be located in the Multipurpose Room of A.K. Hinds University Center, weekdays Feb. 13 to Feb. 28, from 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., and Saturday, Feb. 29, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For more information on student and community voting at WCU, contact the Center for Community Engagement and Service Learning at 828-227-7184.

Parent and Family Resources

Whether your student is new to WCU or is a current student, we're here to support you when you need it. The Parent and Families page can provide explanations and short cuts to everything you need to know about the university, our policies, and procedures as well as information on navigating our business processes. Please reference this page as it may help to support your student through the college experience and make you feel a part of the Catamount family. Go CATS!
Important Dates

February 1       Scholarship Application Deadline
February 17      Fifth Week Grades
February 25      Advising Day, No Classes
March 5 - 9      SoCon Basketball Tournament
March 9 - 13     Spring Break

Student Activities Calendar
Division of Student Affairs
Western Carolina University
Cullowhee, NC 28723

You are receiving this email because you are a member of the extended Western Carolina University community.
March 2020

Coronavirus Update

Dear WCU Parents and Families:

Western Carolina University continues to closely monitor the spread of respiratory illness caused by the Novel Coronavirus, also known as COVID-19. Although North Carolina officials have confirmed the state's first case of COVID-19, the illness is not currently widespread in North Carolina. There are no known cases on the WCU campus or within our WCU community abroad. A campus response team continues to plan internally as well as with our community partners for a swift response, should the need arise.

WCU Health Services provides regular updates to the campus community through the Public Health Alerts webpage. The university will continue to monitor the situation and update the campus community as it evolves.

Students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to follow the same precautions to protect against COVID-19 that we use to prevent the spread of flu and other viral illnesses. Wash your hands frequently, sneeze or
cough into your elbow (not your hands), avoid touching your face and do not share food, cups or utensils with others. Also, avoid others that are sick and avoid contact if you feel sick yourself.

With spring break approaching, many students may be traveling either domestically or internationally. Please encourage your student to use their good information and judgment about travel plans. For students planning to travel outside the country, we recommend they monitor the [CDC travel notices](https://www.cdc.gov/travel) for information related to their destination.

During Spring Break, we also encourage students and their family members to review [CDC Facts About COVID-19](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/factsheets/index.html) together. Again, over the break WCU will continue to monitor the situation and post updates on our website.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping the WCU community of faculty, staff, students, and families stay safe and healthy this Spring Break.

Sincerely,

H. Sam Miller
Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

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**Make sure your student has updated their emergency contact information** - Log in to myWCU.wcu.edu - Click on Personal Services - Update Emergency Contact

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**Installation Week**

*March 21st - 27th - Installation Week for Chancellor Bown*

*Saturday, March 21st - Paint the Town Purple*

*Wednesday, March 25th - Chancellor’s Catamount Cookout*
On March 27, 2020, Dr. Kelli R. Brown will be installed as the 12th Chancellor of Western Carolina University. This event heralds a new era for our university as we focus on honoring our promises to students, who realize their dreams through the pursuit of academic excellence, and to the region, where we strive to achieve an inclusive future that values Western North Carolina’s rich history.

Student presence and involvement are essential to the spirit of this event and we hope you will encourage your student to attend if their class schedule allows. WCU will not be canceling classes but the event will be saved for viewing later. The Installation will also be broadcast live if you would like to watch the event. Click on the button below to access the stream and see a list of all events scheduled for the week.

A couple of events may be of particular interest to your student -

**Paint the Town Purple**

**March 21 | 12:00 – 5:00 p.m.**

**Downtown Sylva & Dillsboro**

A community-centered and spirited expression of Catamount Pride as we celebrate the connection between WCU and our closest neighbors. Merchants and shops in Sylva and Dillsboro will be decked out in purple and gold. Come out to shop, socialize, eat and drink with friends and our community partners.
Chancellor’s Catamount Cookout

March 25 | 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.
Childress Field at Hennon Stadium

Students and members of the campus community celebrate in an old-fashioned cookout before the Catamount baseball team takes on Gardner-Webb. Bring your friends and co-workers and enjoy hamburgers, hot dogs and ice cream. Be a part of the installation celebration and stay to cheer on your Catamounts!

Installation Events

Vote for Paws!

Ingles is awarding the winning school a ONE THOUSAND DOLLAR scholarship to be announced at the men’s championship of this year’s Ingles Southern Conference Basketball Tournament... AND donating another $1K on behalf of that school to Hoops Against Hunger! Click on the button below and scroll down until you see the “Click Here to Vote” button.

Vote Before March 9th
Family Weekend 2020

SAVE the DATE!
Family Weekend will be held September 18 - 20, 2020.
Family Weekend is an engaging and exciting annual tradition at Western! Over the course of the weekend, we will welcome parents and families to visit campus to interact with students, organizations, attend a social or athletic event and visit places that have become special to your student.

Registration will open in July. The 2020 Family Weekend schedule will be posted online after the start of the fall semester. We look forward to seeing you there!

Summer School

Raft the Tuck, hike Panthertown, paddleboard at Bear Lake, all while getting ahead on your course schedule and spending time with friends that will create lifetime memories. If you have not considered summer courses at WCU, discover why you should consider summers in Cullowhee.

Summer registration for current students is similar to the fall and spring registration process. Your student should meet with their faculty advisor to review their proposed summer and fall schedules and obtain their pin number for registration. Review the information below for a step-by-step guide to summer school enrollment.

Summer School Information

Opportunities at the Bardo Arts Center
Undergraduate Exhibition

Exhibition: February 18 - March 20, 2020
This juried exhibition experience is one of the longest-running Catamount art traditions. For emerging artists, this exhibition is an extraordinary opportunity to share their artwork with a larger public and to enhance their skills in presenting artwork in a professional gallery setting. Their work is reviewed by an outside art professional who has the challenge of making selections from the many talented students who submit an application. This year, the exhibition is juried by Tracey Morgan, owner of Tracey Morgan Gallery in Asheville. All free and open to the public. Image featured: Kristen Price, Late Night Run, 2019, photograph.

John Brown Big Band

Thursday, March 5 at 7:30PM
Bardo Arts Center Performance Hall

**PRE-EVENT**: 6:30 PM: Enjoy live jazz music while you explore the WCU Fine Art Museum exhibitions.

The John Brown Big Band brings jazz classics and contemporary cutting-edge arrangements to the Bardo Arts Center stage. Tickets are only $5 for students. Tickets and info at [arts.wcu.edu/johnbrownjazz](http://arts.wcu.edu/johnbrownjazz) or visit the Bardo Arts Center box office.

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**Is your student planning to work on campus?**

Be sure to have 2 original forms of ID to complete the required I-9 paperwork.
STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS.

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

For more information: www.cdc.gov/COVID19

Western Carolina University
### Important Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<td>March 5 - 9</td>
<td>SoCon Basketball Tournament</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 9</td>
<td>Last day to vote for Paws</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 9 - 13</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
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<td>March 20</td>
<td>Hunter Library Book Sale</td>
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<td>March 24</td>
<td>Campus Ghost Tour</td>
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<td>March 27</td>
<td>Chancellor Brown’s Installation</td>
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<td>March 28</td>
<td>Dance Marathon by Miracle at WCU</td>
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### Volunteer/Service Opportunities

### Student Activities Calendar

### Campus Rec & Wellness
Cullowhee, NC 28723

You are receiving this email because you are a member of the extended Western Carolina University community.

Preferences | Unsubscribe
Family Newsletter Update

WCU Response to COVID-19 Update

Please know that Western Carolina University (WCU) is engaged as a campus community with the many emerging issues raised by the COVID-19 pandemic. Like you and your families, we’re continually monitoring ever-changing regulations, recommendations, and information. Decisions on numerous other fronts (e.g., by federal, state, and local officials; University of North Carolina System governance; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance; etc.) affect decisions and processes at WCU. We’re also working to be thoughtful and proactive to address the many complex issues that arise.

I’m writing today to share that yesterday afternoon we updated our information for students, faculty, staff, and members of the Catamount community like you. Please review and continue to monitor the FAQs section of the WCU coronavirus website for updates: https://www.wcu.edu/coronavirus/

We are working to be responsive. At this point not all of your questions have fully resolved answers, and some answers change as this situation continues to unfold. Our faculty members have been working through the challenges of moving from in-person or face-to-face instruction to online and technologically enhanced experiences. Our staff members are working hard to reconfigure day-to-day operations and creatively deliver services and support for our students. We appreciate your patience and support for
our students, and we’re moving forward as best we can during these unprecedented circumstances.

Among the updates you will find on the FAQ section of the WCU coronavirus website:

- While we are shifting classes to online modes, the university remains open, but open may not mean that office doors or facilities are open to the public. Increasingly, many services have shifted to online modes for now. The campus is implementing strategies like social distancing and avoiding mass gatherings to help stave off the spread of the COVID-19 virus.
- We strongly encourage students to retrieve essential items from their residence hall rooms by Saturday, March 21. And if possible, Residential Living recommends students retrieve all their belongings now to avoid a follow-up trip at a later date.
- We hear you on the questions about commencement and other events; interest in refunds; summer school; deadlines and extensions or exceptions; etc. As decisions are made and the information becomes available, we will continue to post updates.
- Students should continue to access their myWCU portal, check their Catamount emails regularly, and read and follow course instructions carefully. They should pay close attention to any action steps or deadlines.

Some current mandates and recommendations extend through March 31. As WCU receives more guidance, new timelines may be established.

We regret any inconvenience these uncertain conditions may be causing. Again, we encourage you to monitor our coronavirus website for the most up-to-date information as this situation is changing daily and as our recommendations are updated.

Thank you. Stay healthy and safe!

H. Sam Miller
Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs
Division of Student Affairs
Western Carolina University
Cullowhee, NC 28723

You are receiving this email because you are a member of the extended Western Carolina University community.

Preferences  |  Unsubscribe
April/May 2020

Message from Chancellor Brown

Update on Commencement and Summer Classes

Dear Western Carolina University Community:

The past couple of weeks have seen the impact of COVID-19 expand across the state of North Carolina, continuing to disrupt the normal operations of the 2020 spring semester at Western Carolina University. Recent predictions from public health officials indicate that the peak of the virus's
spread across our state may not arrive until late April or early May. In light of that new information and given Governor Roy Cooper’s statewide “stay home, stay safe” order, which remains in effect at least until April 30, university leadership has agreed that we cannot yet set a date for the rescheduling of commencement exercises originally set for May 8 and 9.

To students and their families, we want you to know that we are absolutely committed to hosting in-person commencement ceremonies so that we can celebrate this important milestone together. We fully understand that you are anxious to know when we will hold these on-campus events, but the fluid nature of this global health crisis means that we simply are not in a position to make a decision today with any degree of certainty. Indeed, it may be a number of weeks before we can definitely set a new date. We are looking at possible dates in early August or mid-December, depending upon the success of efforts to slow exposure to and transmission of the coronavirus disease. We will set a firm date for the rescheduled spring commencement ceremonies in the weeks ahead and will do so in consultation with public health officials, the University of North Carolina System, and state leaders.

In addition, all instruction during the summer months at WCU will be offered online, with no face-to-face courses. Students who are wondering about the status of summer internships, cooperative education assignments, and similar experiential learning activities should consult with their specific program directors for guidance, as there is no “one-size-fits-all” answer.

I once again thank you for cooperation, your patience, and your understanding. I continue to be amazed at the resilience of our Catamount community in coming together by remaining apart in these extremely trying times. And for those of you on track to graduate at the end of this semester, I am looking forward to the time when this pandemic has passed and I can acknowledge you as you walk across that stage at commencement.

Be safe and be well,

Kelli R. Brown
Chancellor
S/U Grading Policy for Spring 2020

The Faculty Senate has passed a resolution expanding the S/U grading policy for Spring 2020. This change gives most students the option to request Satisfactory (S) / Unsatisfactory (U) grades to replace standard letter grades for any or all of their Spring 2020 courses at the completion of the semester. Instruction for all courses will continue and faculty will provide letter grades as usual at the end of the semester. Students who wish to accept their letter grade for a course will still have that option. The S/U accommodation will award a grade of "S" for any letter grade from A to C, and a grade of "U" for a letter grade from C- to F.

Faculty will assign final grades in MyWCU as usual and as planned at the beginning of the semester. Courses that were to receive letter grades will receive letter grades, and courses that were to be assessed as S/U will be assessed as S/U, etc. Students will have the option to petition the Registrar to shift any or all of their courses to S/U grading by completing the S/U Grade Change Form, found on the Registrar's webpage on April 30, 2020. The form will be available and accepted through June 30, 2020. A grade of S/U will not be factored into students' GPA; however, the courses will count towards earned semester hours.

Undergraduate professional programs and graduate programs may not be able to provide this accommodation due to accreditation and licensure requirements.

Please note:

- Students may withdraw from Spring 2020 courses through April 30, 2020—and thereafter if necessary due to extenuating circumstances. For this term only, withdrawals will not impact completion percentages or student withdrawal limits. Students should contact Financial Aid at Finaid@wcu.edu or 828.227.7290 to discuss the potential impact that withdrawing has on their financial aid.
- ALL student transcripts, regardless of S/U grading elections, will include a note regarding the extraordinary circumstances of this time period.
- Deadlines for the completion of any Fall 2019 Incompletes ("I") will be extended to December 14,
2020.
- Given this grading change, Chancellor's List and Dean's List designations will not be observed for the Spring 2020 semester.

Make sure your student has updated their emergency contact information - Log in to myWCU.wcu.edu - Click on Personal Services - Update Emergency Contact

Campus Recreation Goes Virtual

Students can beat the quarantine blues by staying active!

Campus Recreation and Wellness have created several programs for students to participate in whether they're at home or in their own yard.

Virtual programs, challenges, & services

Helpful Links During Online Learning
This is a stressful time for your student and transitioning to online classes can be difficult. Here are some resources your student may find useful.

**Managing Coronavirus Anxiety**

**Center for Career & Prof. Development Virtual Drop-ins**

**Math Tutoring Center (MTC)**

**Online MTC Tutoring**

**Online Brainfuse Tutoring**

**Self-Help tools from CAPS**

**Working and living Remotely - Information Technology**

**Writing & Learning Commons (WaLC)**

**Online Tutoring**

**Submit your papers to tutors**

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**Bookstore and Book Rental Returns**

The Bookstore is temporarily closed to the public for all in-person merchandise sales. At this time, we are fulfilling online orders, which will include free shipping. Please note that online orders, voicemails, or email responses may experience delays as operations change over the coming weeks.
Book Rental textbooks should be turned in during student’s official move-out from Residential Living (currently scheduled prior to May 8, 2020). Residential Living will release specific move-out dates at a later time. If your student does not live on campus, their textbooks should be returned to the Bookstore by May 31, 2020.

These details and dates may change, we appreciate your patience and we will do our best to meet your needs as WCU’s Bookstore.

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**Housing and Dining Refunds**

WCU Family members, please be aware of the communication below sent to our students earlier this week. Additional information will be coming next week. We will also be sharing information about retrieving belongings from the residence halls and checking out. Thank you for your patience.

To Western Carolina University students:

We understand that many of you have questions regarding refunds for payments for on-campus housing and dining services that you are unable to access because of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. We now are beginning to receive guidelines from the University of North Carolina System on how to deal with the very complicated issues surrounding partial refunds for your housing and dining payments.

We are glad that we will be able to issue refunds to you. That said, the devil will be in the details. We anticipate that it will take us a few weeks to figure out the logistics because there is not a “one-size-fits-all” solution. Different students have different meal plans, and different residence halls have different room rates. Some students have received exemptions and have
been allowed to remain in on-campus housing, with fewer dining options.

We will figure this out, but it will require a bit more time for us to get it right. Also, please keep in mind that the amount of your refund may depend upon any outstanding balances in your accounts. We will provide additional details regarding refunds and related matters in the coming weeks.

In the meantime, we want you to know that we appreciate your patience and your understanding as we navigate these unprecedented times. Thank you for helping Western Carolina University do its collective part to slow the spread of the coronavirus. We wish you success in your continuing academic pursuits and good health for you and your loved ones.

Sincerely,

Dr. Sam Miller, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs
Mr. Mike Byers, Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance
Mail/Packages

Students will receive an e-mail notification, via their Catamount e-mail account, for any packages received at the Student Mail Center. To ensure that their mail/packages are forwarded they need to make sure their address is correct in MyWCU. Mail and packages from United States Postal Service (USPS) will be forwarded, but all other packages delivered through UPS, FedEx (Ground, Express) and DHL will be returned to the sender.

If your student has already moved out of their residence hall but has not returned their mailbox key, they can mail it to:

Student Mailroom Supervisor
Attn: James Thomas
245 Memorial Dr
Cullowhee, NC 28723

Make sure they include their 920#, full name, and mailbox number. Please contact the mailroom at 828-227-3241 or via email at Resmailsup@wcu.edu for additional questions.
In order to minimize the risk of spreading a potentially infectious illness, all visits to Health or Counseling and Psychological Services will be by scheduled appointment only.

*We are not able to accommodate walk-in appointments at this time.*

Health Services 828.227.7640  
Counseling and Psychological Services 828.227.7469

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**MANAGING STRESS & ANXIETY ABOUT THE CORONAVIRUS**

We encourage you to use the following 7 tips to manage stress or anxiety that can arise in the midst of uncertainty or fear about your or a loved ones' safety.

1. **Acknowledge reactions.** Allow yourself time to reflect on what you are feeling and how you may be reacting to any fears and uncertainties of the future.

2. **Maintain your day-to-day normal activities and social outlets.** Resist withdrawing and isolating yourself from the support and caring that others can provide.

3. **Seek accurate information from “The Center for Disease Control & Prevention” and limit exposure to social media and news reports that provide no new information.**

4. **Pay attention to positive news instead of only focusing on negative and fear-producing reports.**

5. **Follow the protection and prevention tips given by medical professionals given by national medical authorities and your own medical doctor.**

6. **Practice calming rituals:** Stay grounded in the present moment, which can help you maintain an internal sense of stability and balance when outside events feel threatening.

7. **Seek supports & use campus resources.** Reach out to friends and family and learn about campus resources available. If you or someone you know has high distress that does not seem to be lessening, talk about it with others or come to the counselling center. Your campus community is here to help!
STOP
THE SPREAD OF GERMS.

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

For more information: www.cdc.gov/COVID19

Western Carolina University
Important Dates

May 1  Last day of classes
May 2 - 8  Final Exams

Volunteer/Service Opportunities

Student Activities Calendar

Campus Rec & Wellness

Division of Student Affairs
Western Carolina University
Cullowhee, NC 28723

You are receiving this email because you are a member of the extended Western Carolina University community.
This fall, Western Carolina University will work to fulfill its academic mission and protect the well-being of its campus community by making decisions guided by science and sound data. Shared community standards remind us that we each have personal responsibility for actions that may affect our own health and the health of
our friends, colleagues, and the broader campus community. Our collective acceptance of this shared responsibility will be the most effective strategy we will have at our disposal in the challenging months ahead.

Please take time before the start of the Fall 2020 term to discuss the Catamounts Care standards with your student. *We ask that you discuss the importance of prevention practices like frequent handwashing, physical distancing, and wearing a face covering while on-campus.* We know that Catamounts Care and we have developed the linked set of standards to encourage everyone to put the well-being of themselves and others top of mind.

Western Carolina University is developing plans for the Fall 2020 semester through an inclusive decision-making process. We have developed a comprehensive website to help answer your questions on housing/dining, course instruction, community standards and other changes for the Fall semester.

This site is updated as procedures changes. Please check back regularly.
Your student recently received their bill for the upcoming semester in their Catamount email. To access Bill+Payment so you can see your student's statement or make a payment online you must be set up as authorized user. Students with unpaid prior term charges will not be able to register for classes or get a transcript until the account is paid in full. Payments must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, August 3rd. Drop for non-payment will occur on August 4th.
Take Care of Business
Encourage your student to take care of necessary business items before arriving on campus.

Waive Insurance
Change Schedule
Register Vehicle
Fall 2020 Cat Tran Operations
Beginning August 17th

The schedule and stops are designed to facilitate social distancing by operating at 50% passenger capacity. Shuttles will be wiped down on a routine basis and all passengers will be required to wear a face covering when entering, riding or departing the shuttle. No eating or drinking will be allowed on the shuttles.

Monday-Friday morning and afternoon hours, 7:00 am – 4:30 pm
1. HHS Express – Millennial Apartments, HHS building, HHS Overflow lot, Exxon lot
2. Village Express – Village loop, Norton
3. All Campus Express – Madison, Reynolds, Robertson, McKee, Belk
4. Commuter Express – Walker A lot, Creek lot, Fieldhouse lot, return to Hub
Monday-Friday evening hours, 4:30 pm – 11:00 pm
1. HHS/Commuter Express – Walker A lot, Millennial Apartments, HHS Building, HHS Overflow lot, Exxon lot, Creek lot, Fieldhouse lot
2. Village Express – Village loop, Norton
3. All Campus Express – Madison, Reynolds, Robertson, McKee stop, Belk stop

Monday-Friday late night hours, 11:00 pm – 2:30 am
1. Shuttle bus service from outlying parking lots only – HHS Overflow lot, Exxon lot to campus residence hall or UC Hub

Sunday evening and late night hours, 7:00 pm – 2:30 am, for students returning to campus and parking in outlying lots
1. Shuttle bus service from outlying parking lots only – HHS Overflow lot, Exxon lot to campus residence hall or UC Hub

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**Bookstore Operations**

Due to predicted high levels of traffic, in which appropriate physical distancing may be challenging, masks will be required to enter the Bookstore in Fall 2020. Customers, including students, that refuse to wear a mask may be refused service and asked to leave. Please go to the link below for answers to the following questions. For additional questions you may contact the Bookstore @ 828.227.7346 or via email @ bookstore@wcu.edu.

- How do residential (living on-campus) students get their textbooks?
- How do commuter (living off-campus) students get their textbooks?
- What if all my classes are online and I won’t be near campus?
- When will the Bookstore be open?

Bookstore Answers

Move-In

Directions to Campus and Check-in
As you come out of Sylva, approximately 1 mile past Smoky Mountain High School, Ingles Supermarket, and Burger King, look for signs placed to direct everyone to the Ramsey Center entrance. The Ramsey Center entrance to campus will be the fifth traffic light after passing under the light at CVS Pharmacy. Once you have turned into the Ramsey Center campus entrance, please take the first left and follow signs to the central check-in point in the Fieldhouse Lot.

Please refer to the Parking Services website for on-campus driving directions associated with your particular residence hall. Parking Services will continue updating this site throughout July. Unfortunately, failure to follow the correct route associated with your residence hall could cause you both delays and unnecessary frustration.

Move-In Maps
Reminder of Limited Guests to Assist Students
Please remember that each student is only allowed to have up to two individuals assist with moving their items into their room.

Face Coverings
We ask that all students and their guests wear face coverings throughout the move-in process.

Class of 2024
If your student is an incoming freshman they will receive their official Class T-shirt when they check-in.

Pack Lightly
We strongly encourage students to bring minimal items when moving in for fall. This is a recommendation that we make to students each and every year, but want to emphasize that point more this year.

Although we are planning for and hopeful that students will remain on campus throughout each semester in the coming year, the possibility remains that students could need to return home quickly and should be able to move their belongings out in a short amount of time.

Pack Lightly

Parking
After unloading, all vehicles will need to be moved so that space is available for the next group of students moving in. Parents/guests are asked to move to any lot designated for commuter students. All students are asked to move to a parking lot that is designated for their permit type.

Commuter lots: 4A, 4B, 10, 12, 9C, 37 and 8A;
Freshman lots: 19A, 73, and Overflow Lots 27B, 8B, and 76B
Upper class residents should also move their vehicles to overflow lots after unloading and leave their cars there until parking lots adjacent to residence halls are opened during the weekend of August 15-16. To easily identify these lots, students and parents will receive a color-coded designation so they may recognize these locations. A map, temporary hang tag, and directional signage will be available during the move in process. Cat Tran will be available to assist students and parents in returning to the residence halls.

Due to the high volume of extra traffic on campus during move-in, parking regulations will be in effect and enforced throughout.

If there are any questions, please contact the Parking Office at 828-227-7275 or via email at parking@wcu.edu.

Cat Tran
August 1st - 16th

Move-in operations are designed to facilitate social distancing by operating at 50% passenger capacity. Shuttles will be wiped down on a routine basis and all passengers will be required to wear a face covering when entering, riding or departing the shuttle. No eating or drinking will be allowed on the shuttles.

- Monday - Thursday, 8:00am - 5:00pm
- Friday - Sunday, 8:00am - 10:00pm
Welcome New Catamount Parents!

We are excited that your student has chosen Western Carolina University to be their new home and we want to make sure they get off to a great start! Before arriving on campus make sure your student submits their immunization records and complete their assigned Catamount Community Courses. If you have not already done so join the WCU Parents Facebook group so you can get the latest updates and meet your fellow catamount parents.

IT’S TIME TO COMPLETE YOUR ONLINE CATAMOUNT COMMUNITY COURSES!

Check your Catamount email from EverFi and complete your courses now to avoid a registration hold.
Use of Email Information

Your email can be used to communicate university information. If you no longer want to receive the WCU Parent and Family newsletter or if you do not want to receive university information, please click on the red stop button to your left and type "STOP" in the message.

Division of Student Affairs
Western Carolina University
Cullowhee, NC 28723
StudentAffairs@wcu.edu

Inside WCU

1 University Drive, Cullowhee, NC 28723

This email was sent to dreynolds@wcu.edu

Want to change how you receive this email?
Update your preferences

Inside WCU emails are powered by Cerkl®
September 2020

CATAMOUNTS CARE
All of us, working together, can prevent the spread of COVID-19 and protect our campus community.

Face coverings are required
Wash your hands properly
Clean and disinfect
Practice physical distancing
Feeling sick? Stay home
Practice good self-care

FOR MORE INFORMATION: WCU.EDU/CORONAVIRUS
Tuck River Cleanup

Students are making up for not being able to participate in the Annual Tuck River Cleanup last April. Participants are encouraged to pick up trash at any outdoor location and take a selfie. They can then show the photo at the front desk of the Campus Recreation Center to receive a free t-shirt.

More Information

Being Me In Cullowhee

Campus Activities introduced a new virtual series of 'Being Me in Cullowhee.' The series will explore students' various identities and their unique experiences on campus. The first in the series ask three students what it is like "Being Black in Cullowhee". Thank you, Alan, Ajaylah, and Lance, for sharing your story.
Family Weekend

Although circumstances did not allow us to hold Family Weekend this year, we are looking forward to continuing this tradition in the future. There will be more opportunities for you to get involved in the University Culture, and we look forward to continuing this tradition next year.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

2021-2022 FAFSA OPENS OCTOBER 1

Priority filing deadline for WCU is January 1.

Campus Recreation Center Re-opens
The wait is finally over, our students are finally able to return to indoor work outs in the CRC.

**The Campus Recreation Center (CRC) is opening for workouts with a reservation on Sept. 8**

For information on making reservations, hours, requirements and what to expect, visit our FALL 2020 OPERATIONS AND PROCEDURES page on RECCENTER.WCU.EDU.

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**Code of Student Conduct**

All WCU students are expected to be familiar with the Code of Student Conduct and to conduct themselves in accordance with these requirements.

[Review the Code]
If your student will complete their degree in the Fall 2020 semester they need to apply for graduation by **September 18th**.
Events for Our Newest Catamounts

Traditions are important and we understand that not being able to participate in the events our new students and family members typically participate in has been disappointing. If your student is a new freshman, they can participate in the Freshmen Run next Fall.

Class of 2024 T-Shirt

During move-in, your student could obtain their Class of 2024 t-shirt. If they have not received their t-shirt, it is not too late. Ask them to email StudentAffairs@wcu.edu with their name, preferred shirt size, and mailing address.

Catamount Community Courses

All new students are required to complete Catamount Community Courses. For most students, this includes a course in Alcohol Education, Sexual Assault Awareness, and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Students were asked to complete these prior to attending classes. If your student has not completed this requirement, a hold will be placed on their account and they will not be allowed to register for next semester classes until the courses are completed.

Use of Email Information

Your email can be used to communicate university information. If you no longer want to receive university communications, please click on the red stop button to your left and type "STOP" in the message.

Division of Student Affairs
Western Carolina University
Cullowhee, NC 28723
StudentAffairs@wcu.edu
Updated Academic Calendar

The Spring and Summer 2021 calendars have been updated. Classes will begin on January 25th and even though spring break has been cancelled, Easter break has been extended. Reading day and Advising day remain as no class days and final exams will end on May 14th. If your student plans to attend summer classes they may choose to begin Mini‐mester on May 17th, Session I on June 2nd, or Session II on July 6th.

Construction Project

The demolition of Scott Hall is well underway and will immediately be followed by the demolition of Walker Hall. To enhance the project's environmental sustainability, masonry and concrete from the demolished buildings will be used as fill material for new recreational fields.
Tuition and Fee Committee

The tuition and fee committee meet each year to review proposed increases to tuition and fees and make recommendations to the Chancellor. The committee is co-chaired by the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and the Student Government Association President. Their primary goals are to actively solicit student input on proposed changes and to certify student involvement in the process. Membership on this committee is comprised of 1 faculty member, 5 staff members, and 6 student members. Find out more on the Tuition and Fee Committee Website.

Cell Phone Service: Relocation and Experience

We have received several comments recently about cell service in Cullowhee and surrounding areas. Both Verizon’s and AT&T’s cell phone equipment had to be moved prior to the current demolition of Scott and Walker halls. Verizon has installed a new tower located near the parking lot behind the Catamount Center/Post Office, while AT&T is currently installing new equipment on top of the Rec Center, with an expected completion date in November. In the interim, AT&T is allowing roaming on the US Cellular tower located at the Cullowhee Airport. If you have experienced issues recently, you should report them to your respective mobile provider.
Voting on Campus

It is your student's right to vote and we are here to support them. At vote.wcu.edu your student can find out everything they need to know to vote in November. Registering, voter ID, voter education, and more is available.

September Campus Updates

Below is some of the information that has been shared with your student over the past few weeks.

Fall 2020 End of Semester Process The last day of face-to-face classes is November 20. Residence Halls and Dining Facilities will remain open until December 5. If students are returning to campus in the spring they do not need to move-out of their room.
Spring 2021 Beginning of Semester Move-In Classes are scheduled to resume on January 25. Residence halls will begin allowing students to return/move-in on January 16. All students will be required to sign-up for the day and time they want to move into their building.

Lower Campus Residence Halls Project Webcam
A publicly accessible web camera is available for the WCU Lower Campus Residence Halls Project.

WCU Admission Tours to Resume
Campus tours for prospective students resumed in September. A new tour process incorporates Catamounts Care prevention strategies to minimize the chances for COVID-19 exposure and transmission.

Catamounts Care Standards Continue to be the Key to On-campus Operations
We appreciate everyone who is working hard to follow WCU community health standards - wear face coverings, practice physical distancing, and wash your hands. Visit the Catamounts Care Website

Commencement Plans
As our state continues to open and guidance on size and management of gatherings evolve, December commencement planning is underway. The team here at WCU is working diligently to plan a commencement that will allow us to celebrate and recognize our students' accomplishments in a meaningful and safe way.

WCU Will Keep the NC Phase 2 Re-opening Mass Gathering Limits in Place
Chancellor Brown and the University's Executive Council have decided to extend the Governor's Phase 2 guidance relating to mass gatherings (10 for indoor gatherings and 25 for outdoor gatherings) until further notice.

See all Campus Updates

Important Dates

October 17 - Data Center Outage

October 23 - Last day to withdraw from a class

October 27 - Advising Day/no classes

October 28 - First day to Register for Spring and summer

November 20 - Last day for face-to-face classes

November 24 - Last day of classes

November 25-29 - Thanksgiving Break

November 30-December 4 - Final Exams
End of Fall 2020 Service Dates

The final day of face-to-face instruction is Friday, November 20. Students should remember that Western Carolina University’s fall 2020 semester does not conclude until the end of exams on Saturday, December 5. Residence Halls, Dining Facilities, and other student service facilities will remain open and operating under normal business hours.

MORE INFORMATION ON FALL CLOSING

Leadership Announcements
On October 15th Chancellor Brown announced the appointment of Dr. Richard D. Starnes, as Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs.

On October 16th Chancellor Brown announced the appointment of Dr. Angela J. Grube as the Dean of the College of Business.

Commencement

Commencement is a significant milestone for our students, and we have been working diligently to plan a ceremony that will allow us to celebrate and recognize your accomplishments in a meaningful and safe way. In consultation with the Jackson County Department of Public Health and campus stakeholders, we are planning a four-day series of ceremonies to honor May and August graduates, as well as the members of the fall 2020 graduating class.

Ceremonies are scheduled to begin Thursday, December 10, and continue through Sunday, December 13, with graduates being grouped based on their degree, academic department, and college. Commencement participants will be assigned a specific time block for their respective ceremony.

DON’T MISS THE 2021-22 WCU SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE FEBRUARY 1ST
Details on the logistics for commencement can be found at graduation.wcu.edu. Plans are subject to change based on conditions related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
Are you looking for a WCU memento for yourself as a WCU Parent or a gift for your WCU student? Western Carolina University's Staff Senate’s 2020 WCU ornament is now available for purchase online! Each year, the Staff Senate sells ornaments to raise funds for the Staff Senate Scholarship, an initiative to support currently enrolled or accepted, incoming children or relatives of WCU staff members. This year’s ornament’s design, which was created in house by extremely talented WCU engineering students at the Rapid Center within the College of Engineering and Technology, reflects this year’s campus theme: Water. There is a limited supply of ornaments, so be sure to order yours today! Staff Senate appreciates the support the scholarship continues to receive from the campus community.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

2021-2022 FAFSA OPENS OCTOBER 1

Priority filing deadline for WCU is January 1.

Student Connections & The Ideal Campus Food Experience
We know how important connections are for your student. As we strive to provide your student with the best experience possible, one area we want to better connect is through our campus food experience. We ask that you take 5 minutes or less to share your ideas on the ideal food experience for your student and how it can better fit into our campus lifestyle as we move into 2021 and beyond.

We are using an independent research firm to collect parent's opinions. Your input is not tied to your name/e-mail unless you explicitly request the firm to share them. We hope to have all surveys completed by November 23rd. Please click the link below to get started.

[DIINING SURVEY]
Being Me in Cullowhee

Campus Activities introduced two new installments in their “Being Me in Cullowhee” series. The series explores students’ various identities and their unique experience on campus.
Leave your legacy by purchasing a brick on the Catamount Legacy Walk! Located by the Alumni Tower, the walk features bricks engraved with a name or personal message that honors members of the Western Carolina University family.

- Celebrate a special occasion such as graduation, anniversary, retirement, or a holiday gift
- Honor a friend or loved one from WCU who has impacted your life
- Recognize a graduate, student, professor or friend
- Celebrate a graduate's educational, Greek membership, and athletic successes as a Catamount

Funds raised by the Catamount Legacy Walk support the Student Emergency Fund. Donors receive a commemorative certificate for each brick commissioned.

For more information please contact the Office of Student Affairs at (828) 227-7147 or visit LegacyWalk.wcu.edu.
TEXTBOOK BUYBACK
November 9 - December 11
Bring in any books you would like to sell and let us quote you a price!*

* NOT FOR CASH - we will either post the credit on your Student Account or provide a WCU Bookstore Giftcard.
2020-2021 Room Selection

Will your student need on campus housing for the 2020-2021 Academic Year? More information will be forthcoming as we get closer to Spring 2021. Below are some important items to remember:

- Room selection begins in March 2021
- Pay the non-refundable housing depot of $150 through their MyWCU account
- Submit a Residence Hall Agreement beginning in late February
- Information will be online at roomselection.wcu.edu
- Information will be sent to your student's Suite box in January
- Emails will be sent to your student's WCU email account
- Being requested as a roommate does not qualify as submitting a Residence Hall Agreement

Questions? Please call the Department of Residential Living at 828.227.7303.

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October Campus Updates

Below are some of the messages that have been shared with your student over the past few weeks.

**Final Exams** Exams are scheduled to begin on Monday, November 30. Fall 2020 Exam Schedule.

**A Message from the Chief of Police** Chief Steve Lillard encouraged all members of the community to contact UPD if they see any concerning behavior on Social Media or other platforms.

**Democratic Engagement** Chief Diversity Officer Ricardo Nazario-Colon urged students to engage with our democratic process and vote but also to be mindful of our community.

**Election Day Message** WCU is a place for collaboration with and respect for our community, and we embrace a free and open exchange of ideas. Chancellor Brown encouraged all community members to remember that these values do not need to be in conflict; it is our duty to show respect to each other, even with those with who we disagree.
Important Dates

November 20 - Last day for face-to-face classes

November 24 - Last day of classes

November 25-29 - Thanksgiving Break

November 30-December 5 - Final Exams

December 11 - Rental Textbooks Due
DECEMBER 2020

The Spring 2021 Operations and Procedures Website is Now Available

Residential Students Spring 2021 Entrance Testing

As part of our commitment to keeping our campus community healthy, we strongly encourage all students and employees to test in their local area before returning to campus in January. All of the measures we have implemented as an institution are for the healthy opening of the spring semester.
All WCU students residing on-campus are expected to take a COVID-19 test within 3-5 days of their scheduled move-in date. One of the best resources in your local community is your Public Health Department. Many local pharmacies, primary care medical provider, and individual insurance companies can also provide specific information for you.

If your student resides on campus, please review the following tips for testing:

1. Identify a COVID-19 testing site. The following NCDHHS website can help you find testing sites in NC: https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/about-covid-19/testing/find-my-testing-place/test-site-finder For out-of-state students we recommend contacting your primary care physician’s office, a local pharmacy, urgent care, or your local health department for testing resources.
2. Monitor student’s health for symptoms and check their temperature before test appointment to ensure they are symptom free. If symptomatic, please isolate until test results are received.
3. Call Residential Living at 828-227-7303 if you have any questions about move-in for Spring 2021.
4. Call Health Services at 828-227-7640 if you have any questions about testing.

Another measure is our expectation that our Catamount family—all students, faculty and staff continue to practice the Catamounts Care strategies designed to help prevent the spread of the virus – including wearing a mask or face covering, maintaining a physical distance of at least 6 feet away from other people, and practicing proper hand hygiene – and to follow government restrictions related to the pandemic.

MOVE-IN PROCEDURES

ENTRANCE TESTING FAQ
This spring, WCU will encourage the usage of the SlowCOVIDNC mobile app which individuals can download and install for free from the App Store or Google Play. Anonymously, the app shares a positive COVID-19 result and/or you receive a notification if you have been in close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 14 days. Your privacy is protected.
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

2021-2022 FAFSA OPENS OCTOBER 1

Priority filing deadline for WCU is January 1.
2020-2021 Room Selection

Will your student need on campus housing for the 2020-2021 Academic Year? More information will be forthcoming as we get closer to Spring 2021. Below are some important items to remember:

- 1st Step: Pay the non-refundable housing deposit of $150 through their MyWCU account
- 2nd Step: Submit a Residence Hall Agreement beginning **February 24, 2021**
- 3rd Step: Select a room during Room Selection which begins in March 2021
- Information will be online at roomselection.wcu.edu
- Information will be sent to your student’s Suite box in January
- Emails will be sent to your student’s WCU email account
- Being requested as a roommate does not qualify as submitting a Residence Hall Agreement

**Students wanting to live on campus should pay their deposit and submit their Residence Hall agreement as early as possible.**

Questions? Please call the Department of Residential Living at 828.227.7303.
Campus Updates

Below are some of the messages that have been shared with your student over the past few weeks.

COVID Dashboard Updates The dashboard will be updated weekly on December 4, 11, and 18. Daily updates will resume on Monday, January 11.

Chancellor's and Dean's List Designations Student's who opt for S/U grading will NOT be eligible for Chancellor's List and Dean's List.

Important Dates

January 1 - FAFSA Filing Priority Deadline
January 16 - Residence Hall Move-In Begins
January 25 - Classes Begin
January 25-29 - Add/Drop
February 1 - Scholarship Application Deadline