

*****IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT FINISHING THE SPRING 2020 TERM*****

Dear Students,

Greetings from CIU! We pray you are doing well and staying well. *I'm writing with important information about the Spring 2020 term and the strategy the CIU team has put together to help you complete your courses, so please read this carefully.* Here are the key details:

- 1) ***We have extended spring break one week, but the semester will still end May 1, 2020.*** The faculty and administration are working to plan how best to cover course objectives in the remaining six weeks of the term. Remember, school will be back in session on March 23, you'll just be learning online instead of in a classroom.
- 2) ***We will move to online instruction through Canvas beginning Monday, March 23 and extending at least through Friday, April 3.*** You will receive further information and direction soon, but for now, make sure you have access to MyCIU (my.ciu.edu) and Canvas (<https://ciuonline.instructure.com/login/ldap>). Your login username and password are the same as your user name and password for your CIU email account. If you have a problem with logging in to MyCIU, call the Helpdesk at (803) 807-5199 (24/7 access; if no answer please leave a message and staff will respond as soon as possible); if you have a problem with Canvas, click the help button (the question mark in a circle) for help. You may also download the Canvas (Student) app for your cellphone from your app store.
- 2) ***We want to be clear: CIU classes are NOT cancelled!*** Rather, instruction, work, and testing are simply moved fully online into Canvas. Doing this will enable you to complete the term and earn the credit for the courses for which you registered.
- 3) ***Please log into Canvas for each of your courses,*** where, beginning on March 23, you will hear from your instructor, see weekly assignments, and see where to submit work. Again, this will not be totally new for most of you. CIU is holding a faculty workshop on Tuesday, March 17, to ensure everyone is ready to provide you the best possible online service.
- 4) ***Your instructors will communicate with you regularly on what assignments are due and when.*** Be sure to watch for changes in the syllabus course assignment schedules, because they will be coming as we adjust to a reduced timeframe (6 weeks instead of 7). ***It's a good idea to check in every day.***
- 5) ***At this time, the CIU library will be open for those of you who need to conduct research and/or computer access and wifi capability.*** We advise students not to congregate in groups while using the library, and in keeping with warnings by health officials, ***stay home if you feel sick.***
- 6) ***Resident students should come to campus to get their textbooks in preparation for resuming classes online next week.*** Please contact Residence Life (803) 807-5485 if there are any problems getting into rooms. Contact your professor if retrieving your textbooks presents a *significant* hardship.

CIU has taken these precautions because we intend to provide the best and safest alternative for the entire campus community as we finish the term. By God's grace, as of March 16, there have been no confirmed cases of COVID-19 at CIU or even in Columbia.

Thank you to the many who have let us know they are praying for CIU; we appreciate that as we move into this unanticipated situation. I'm confident both in the Lord and in our team to help us get through it, and to get through it well. I'm glad you're a part of CIU!

Sincerely,

James E. Lanpher, Provost

FAQs

Q. I left some of my course materials in my room in the dorm. May I secure those?

A. Yes. The campus is not locked down, so you may come secure your items. Please try to do that this week, and contact Residence Life (803) 807-5485 if there are any problems getting into rooms. Contact your professor if retrieving your textbooks presents a *significant* hardship (e.g. you live several hours away).

Q. What if I don't have a computer/access to wifi where I live?

A. Contact your professor. Of course, it's best for everyone if you can secure access to the online course, but if you absolutely cannot, we will work something out. Many internet providers or cellphone providers are offering free data for a period of time. Check with those in your area.

Q. Will we be switching to online instruction work for my courses?

A. Yes. Most of our faculty have significant experience working online and in Canvas, and we are providing further training for all faculty this week so everyone will be ready.

Q. Is online instruction just as good as resident instruction?

A. Yes! Research consistently shows that online instruction, while *different* from the traditional approach, is just as effective. You may even find you like it and decide to try more online courses! We do believe that for this situation, the online approach is the wisest and safest option.

Q. Will the shift to online instruction go beyond April 3?

A. Possibly. We are monitoring the situation with health officials, but for now, we are committing to online instruction through April 3. We may extend this scenario longer if we deem it best for everyone.

Q. How do I contact my professors if I have a question/problem? I'm used to just stopping by their offices.

A. Your professors will let you know the best way to stay in touch. Most likely email or phone will be best; some professors may create "virtual office hours" through Canvas.

Q. What if I miss my CIU community?

A. We'll miss you, too! It's definitely not something we anticipated. One way may be to continue to stay in touch through the CIU app. It might even be fun to share experiences.

Q. What about extracurricular activities (intramurals, intercollegiate athletics, socials, plays, recitals, chapels, prayer groups, etc.)?

A. As long as the coronavirus remains a threat, we do not want to hold events that encourage large groups of people to congregate. The NAIA and NCCAA have already suspended intercollegiate athletics for several weeks; for other CIU events, we will have to watch what happens over the remaining weeks of the term.

Q. How should I pray?

A. Here are a few ideas:

- Pray that the Lord will extend his mercy on the world at this time.
- Pray for national, state, and local leaders as they work together to overcome this health risk.
- Pray for CIU's leadership team, who especially faces the weight of these decisions.
- Pray for CIU's faculty as many shift to a different mode of instruction mid-semester.
- Pray that students, faculty, staff, and administration will stay well.
- Pray we all will make wise choices that help us avoid exposure to the coronavirus.
- Pray that God will show himself faithful through a time that was unexpected for us, but not for Him.
- Pray that Christians will be a voice of calm and confidence in a world where many are gripped by panic and fear.
- Pray that God will amaze and astound us by doing a great work this term—that He will take the coronavirus pandemic and use it to make us a stronger, more united community at CIU.
- Pray that people will come to know Jesus through this health crisis.