



BENTLEY
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August 24, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

I hope the start of the new week is treating you well.

Please see below for a message that I just sent to all of our undergraduate and graduate students. I would like to thank everyone involved who helped produce [the video](#) we shared with students on course modalities – it is a tremendous resource that will help them envision what their classes will look like this trimester.

Much thanks,
dm

Dear Students,

I am delighted to kick off the new academic year with all of you soon. While this trimester will be unlike any we have experienced before, I want you to know that our faculty and staff have been working diligently to provide you with a meaningful, high quality education this fall.

As many of you know, most courses will be offered in two distinct modalities this fall: **hybrid** and **synchronous online**. To further outline what each of these modalities will look like, we have created a short video for you. You can access that video [HERE](#).

As a reminder, all classes will be delivered online during the week of August 31. We made this decision so that all students, faculty, and staff who plan to be on campus will have a chance to participate in, and receive their results from, the screening test program before we conduct any in person class sessions.

Regardless of the course modality, our faculty are ready to support you. Over the past few months, our instructors have participated in various training sessions, reviewed resources on hybrid and online teaching, and updated their syllabi and assignments as they prepare for the new classroom experience that awaits us. We recognize that our learning environments



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will look different this fall; however, we remain committed to offering you a transformational education.

Additionally, our staff in the [Office of Academic Services](#) and the [Registrar's Office](#) are prepared to address your questions and concerns. These offices continue to provide their full range of services to all students, regardless of location. Among these resources is the Keep Learning webpage, which contains strategies and helpful reminders to bolster your academic success. The [Keep Learning webpage](#) will be updated throughout the fall, so be sure to visit it regularly.

Please know that my colleagues and I choose to work in higher education because we genuinely love connecting with students. Though we begin this new academic year under unprecedented circumstances, I look forward to connecting with you soon – both virtually and on campus.

Cordially,

Donna Maria Blancero, PhD

Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs

Pronouns: She/Her/Hers