

August 3, 2020

Dear Mariner,

Marymount California University is committed to providing you a high-quality academic experience. While we have been engaged in extraordinary measures to prepare for on-site instruction, recent directions from Los Angeles County Department of Public Health have made it clear that we will not be given permission to reopen as planned.

From the beginning of our preparation for Fall 2020, we had planned for the contingency that we might not be allowed to do any in-class instruction despite our preparation. Consequently, all our classes had an online back-up plan, and our faculty and staff are fully prepared to provide a great educational experience under remote operating conditions. Below please find additional information and guidance on what to expect for the fall, but first I want to provide some exciting new updates and information on the Marymount advantage.

- **We are increasing the number of units allowed per semester from 20 units to 24 units at no additional charge for Fall 2020 and Spring 2021.**

Understanding that in this time when distancing measures are in place and you may find you have additional time, we are allowing students to take up to 24 units for credit with no additional tuition charge. Use this time to get ahead, not fall behind. With good planning, MCU students can finish their degree in three years or less and obtain a BA+MBA in four years. This may be particularly helpful to our student athletes to earn additional units toward eligibility and degree progress.

- **MCU will launch a new professional mentor program for juniors and seniors.**

We want to provide you with ample opportunities to explore your major and career interests, and build your professional network. This is an important part of the MCU real-world experience, so we are recruiting MCU alumni, employer partners, faculty, staff and parents to participate in this new initiative. Details will be available soon at the [MCU Internship & Career Planning website](#). Internships will also be available in the fall.

- **Join our new Life@MCU in a virtual space.**

Academic progress is the cornerstone of your MCU experience, but at MCU “small means more,” and we want to make sure that in this time of physical and social isolation, we continue to provide opportunities for the MCU community to gather and connect. We will be launching a Life@MCU platform to encourage students with similar interests to meet one another, socialize and pursue their interests. Staff and faculty will also be part of these communities. In addition to academic societies, student organizations and student government (MSGA), we will be creating new virtual spaces and soliciting topic areas that are of interest to you. Check your MCU email for more information in the coming days.

- **The MyMCU app has been updated.**

The new MyMCU app provides for easy access to your courses in MyMarymount and additionally provides you with a listing of campus departments and contact information, as well as a listing of virtual campus events for you to add to the calendar on your phone so you won't miss an activity.

- **We are reducing the student orientation fee, the fall semester campus services fee and some course lab fees.**

In recognition of the changes in campus operations, we are reducing orientation fees by half and reducing the campus services fee by \$250 for the fall term.

So what does the move to online courses mean for the various aspects of your MCU experience?

- **Academic Schedule.** Any courses previously scheduled as online will remain as is, while courses previously scheduled as in-person will be conducted synchronously in their designated time slots. This means that classes are always at the same day and time, and students are expected to be virtually "in class" (via Zoom) at the appointed time. The professor will get to know each student, and you will interact with the professor and your classmates. If you are unable to attend a synchronous class, please make arrangements with your professor to keep up asynchronously. Contact your academic advisor if you have questions or need assistance in making adjustments to your class schedule. Advisor contact information is listed on the [Academic Advising webpage](#) or call the Success Center at (310) 303-7273.
- **Services for Students.** We will have infrastructure to support you outside the classroom, in addition to our online modes of instruction. Virtual tutoring and study hall will be readily available, professors will have regular office hours (albeit virtual) for helping their students, and information on contacting campus services is easily accessible on the MyMCU app. If you have financial aid or billing questions, please contact Student Financial Services at (310) 303-7335 or set up phone or virtual appointments online at <https://calendly.com/mcufa>.
- **Residential Life at the Villas.** The county has also been restrictive on our ability to place students in The Villas with the exception of students who have nowhere else to go. We will not force a student to become homeless. All students who have submitted their housing application will receive a refund. If you are interested in securing university housing when it is permitted by the county, or if you have an immediate housing need, please contact Residential Life at [ResLife@MarymountCalifornia.edu](mailto:ResLife@MarymountCalifornia.edu) or at (310) 303-7317.
- **Athletics.** As participants and members of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) and the California Pacific Conference of the NAIA, we have been informed the conference has decided that fall competition and national championships will be deferred until the spring semester. The basis for this decision is to give the greatest level of equity between sports and inclusivity of the athletes. During this high level of contagion, the risk of contact sports, transportation, accommodation when traveling, and the burden and logistics of frequent COVID testing presented considerable obstacles. Just as eliminating in-person class offerings, deferring athletic competition is disappointing but necessary.

For our competitive athletes, we will communicate with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health to determine when it will be possible for individuals to be involved with on-campus athletic activities. We are constructing a plan to prepare for spring competition while the campus is currently closed. This plan will include individual skill workouts and strength conditioning.

- **Student Health Insurance Requirement and Waiver.** If you were denied the Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP) waiver due to having out-of-area coverage, but now plan to remain at home (20+ miles outside MCU) and have health insurance coverage for Fall 2020, please let the Student Wellness Center know. You may qualify for a waiver if you will not be residing in the Los Angeles area. If you qualify, the fee will be removed from your account. If you still need to [submit a waiver](#), you must do so by August 28, 2020 before 5 p.m. PST.

This has been an incredibly difficult time filled with uncertainty. Through all of this, MCU remains committed to you, our students. Faculty and staff are getting ready for a robust and successful fall semester. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. While the campus remains closed, services remain open. We look forward to ensuring that you do not defer your dreams and that you can make steady progress in your academic journey. Please visit the [MCU COVID-19 website](#) for up-to-date information on our COVID response and FAQs.

God bless and be well,



Brian Marcotte  
President