



# Office of the President

NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY

July 24, 2020

Dear Lumberjacks,

In three weeks, we will start the Fall 2020 semester. After extensive planning and consultation, we are confident in our plans for the fall that will allow NAU to deliver on its national reputation for a quality education through multiple delivery options while mitigating the COVID-19 risk to our community. We have listened to input from a range of stakeholders, considered guidance from scientific and medical experts, and reflected on the essential need to provide educational access to students in Arizona.

We have decided to extend our student move-in process and reduce in-person instruction at the start of the semester, utilizing **NAUFlex's** remote delivery to hold the majority of classes virtually for the first few weeks. The details of this phased-in approach are below:

- Fall 2020 classes begin: Wednesday, August 12 (unchanged).
- All other enrollment, financial aid disbursement, and other dates remain unchanged.
- **NAUFlex** remote delivery as the primary method of instruction: August 12-28.
- Some courses may require in-person instruction during this period. Affected students will be notified with more details during the week of July 27.
- Students with on-campus housing will be contacted with updated move-in information during the week of July 27.
- In-person instruction, coupled with ongoing NAUFlex delivery, will begin on August 31.
- The **NAUFlex Full Remote Request form** is available for students who would like to learn remotely for the entire semester.
- I encourage you to join me and other members of NAU's leadership team at the upcoming **Forecast from Flagstaff** to learn more about our plans for the fall and ask your questions online. Forecast from Flagstaff will stream live on YouTube at 5 p.m. next Wednesday, July 29.

## **Student expectations:**

To smooth the move-in process, support the health of our community, and eliminate the need for additional quarantine precautions, please follow these steps:

- We expect all students to arrive on campus healthy and ready to learn.
- All students should be tested for COVID-19 prior to arrival. **Testing is required for students in on-campus housing.** Resources for testing are below:

- Arizona resident students: visit the [ADHS site](#) for a list of testing locations throughout the state that are available at no cost. Students who live in Coconino County can be tested at [NAU Campus Health Services](#).
- Out-of-state students: check with your primary care provider or local health department about testing.
- Any student exhibiting symptoms or who has tested positive for COVID-19 **must not come to campus** and must follow [CDC guidelines](#) for self-isolation.
- Students should limit contact with individuals outside of their family unit for 10 days prior to arriving on campus, in order to limit potential exposure to the virus.
- Share your commitment to the [Lumberjack Way Forward pledge](#) in order to contribute to community health and safety.
- Masks/cloth face coverings are required.
- Physical distancing measures must be followed on campus.
- Students must complete the Safe Return to Campus training on [BbLearn](#).
- Daily self-health screenings will be required, using the NAU HealthCheck app. Additional details will be provided to students prior to the first day of class.
- Throughout the year, Campus Health Services will provide testing for symptomatic individuals and individuals who have come into contact with positive cases.

Continue to refer to the [Jacks are Back website](#) for up-to-date information about health and safety precautions, return to campus, and more.

In the weeks ahead, NAU will continue to work with our many partners to implement expanded testing and contact tracing capacity, with enhanced integration of technology to support screening and tracing.

We recognize that there may be some disappointment with this adjustment. We trust you will understand that the health and safety of our students, faculty, staff, and community is our primary concern, and careful assessment has led us to the decision to modify the initial format of the fall semester. In these complex and challenging times, we are committed to our educational mission and we are prioritizing a healthy living and learning environment that will allow our students to realize their aspirations at NAU.

Sincerely,



**Rita Hartung Cheng**  
President