
Office of the Provost

March 13, 2020

Dear Faculty,

First, let me say thank you for your patience and support through this dynamic, rapidly evolving situation. Academic continuity lies with you, the faculty. Your support of students and your remote instruction during this unique situation will be crucial and I want you to know we will do everything we can to assist you with this challenge.

As you know, effective Monday, March 23, NAU will move in-person classes to online instruction for at least two weeks, at which time the university will re-evaluate and provide direction for the remainder of the semester. I realize this may not be easy for everyone or suit every form of curricular instruction, and in some cases program accreditation will dictate options. Flexible and creative solutions may be needed to meet learning outcomes.

The following resources are available for you:

- Information Technology Services, the Teaching & Learning Center, and NAU Online have launched an information site to help faculty add basic content and activities to Blackboard Learn along with recommendations for communication with students: <https://in.nau.edu/its/covid19-preparation/>.
- Daily drop-in sessions are available for face-to-face and online to help faculty with Blackboard and Collaborate: <https://in.nau.edu/its/blackboard-learn-training/>.
- ITS Support is available should you need assistance with Blackboard Learn, Collaborate, or other technologies: <https://in.nau.edu/its/help/>.

As you can imagine, many students are anxious about the impact this situation will have on their education. Faculty should communicate with students in their classes as soon as possible, and by Friday, March 20th at the latest, to let them know what they can expect when classes resume on Monday, the 23rd.

I strongly encourage you to take the time now to develop contingency plans to allow you to continue your teaching and to accommodate students who must undergo self-isolation or any other prolonged absence. I appreciate your efforts to be flexible in making accommodations consistent with the constraints of your courses. Please keep your academic chair/director informed of your efforts.

Be sure that you are taking care of yourself and looking out for your friends and others on campus and throughout our community.

Please don't hesitate to come to us with questions or concerns.



Diane M. Stearns
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs