Dear Students,

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we navigate this fluid situation with the COVID-19 virus. As many of you all know already, NAU is utilizing online and remote instruction for the remainder of the 2020 Spring semester.

Please know that NAU is committed to your academic experience, and we are prepared to offer our normal high-quality online and onsite experiences as well as assistance during this time. Faculty will be contacting students directly to let them know what you can expect when classes resume on Monday, the 23rd.

For some of you, it may be your first time learning in this manner. If so, NAU has provided a helpful video about Blackboard (Bb Learn) as well as Bb Learn instructions with FAQs as a launching point and for support the following guidelines will also help you navigate the online and remote learning environment:

1. **Learning outcomes and expectations for your courses should not change.** The difference is that much of the discipline-specific knowledge and information will be delivered by alternative means. Be sure you are reading actively, absorbing content, and comprehending the materials for your classes in the manner that best suits your learning style. That may mean that you recreate a distraction-free environment while you read and study, take the time to summarize your readings and materials in your own words, or find supplemental materials (Cline Library resources, Google Scholar, YouTube educational videos, etc.) to provide additional support for your learning.

2. **Check-in to your courses and NAU email often.** As we all have learned from this experience, things can change from hour-to-hour and day-to-day. Log-in to your course shells a few times a day to keep up on the course and any new developments. Fully explore and engage in the features within your Bb Learn shells for your courses – be sure you read through everything. Engage in the tools and interactive features of Bb Learn by participating in chat groups (or see if you can start one on your own).

3. **Academic support services** including Tutoring, Supplemental Instruction, Academic Peer Mentoring, the Math Achievement Program, and Academic Workshops will move online through Bb Learn Collaborate Ultra. Academic Peer Mentors are equipped to support your academic success, discuss Bb Learn, and how to work online. The Academic Success Center will offer a number of virtual appointments after spring break if you are interested in engaging in new academic learning strategies in an online learning environment.

4. **If you become ill and cannot participate in courses,** please contact your faculty member and let them know what is happening. You can also access the Faculty Notification Request Form in the Office of the Dean of Students when a necessary absence, illness, or extenuating life event occurs. It is important to
keep the lines of communication open and notify your instructors if your health situation changes. For the latest information on COVID-19 and health resources, please visit the [NAU Coronavirus website](https://www.nau.edu/coronavirus/), [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/), and the [Arizona Department of Health Services](https://www.azdhs.gov/).

**One last thing for now:** Faculty are working very hard to translate a traditionally face-to-face learning environment to a remote and online one. Please be patient and don’t be afraid to reach out with questions. There are likely many more questions that will need to be addressed in the coming weeks. Faculty are getting frequent updates and instructions on all aspects of delivering quality remote and online instruction.

Thank you for all you are doing and stay safe and healthy.

Diane M. Stearns
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs