



Dear Hollins community,

As we approach the halfway point of our on-campus fall term experience, I want to thank you for the warm welcome you have given me as your new president, and to share my deepest gratitude for the commitment you have demonstrated each and every day to make our return to on-campus living and learning a success. You have supported our Culture of Care philosophy and risen to the challenges of our COVID-19 protocols with tremendous spirit and dedication. I commend you for your mutual accountability and collective responsibility as we navigate our way through this crisis.

Even though we are only about six weeks into the 2020-21 academic session, it is vitally important that we begin preparing now for how we will move carefully onward into 2021. Public health experts advise that the pandemic will continue to impact our nation well into the coming year; in light of their predictions, and to help ensure the well-being of our campus, we are announcing the following plans for J-Term and Spring Term 2021:

### **January Short Term**

- The January Short Term, or J-Term, academic requirement for credit has been suspended for the 2020-21 academic year. Students will not be returning to campus for J-Term this year and residence halls will remain closed; in-person, virtual, and/or hybrid seminars will not be offered during this year's session.
- Virtual internships, independent study projects, and remote theses are the only activities that will be approved for credit this J-Term.
- Hollins will be organizing a robust calendar of curricular and co-curricular events and programs to keep our students engaged and connected, academically and socially, during this longer break between terms.
- If we are able to remain in person until Thanksgiving Break as planned, it will require a tremendous amount of fortitude and dedication from all of us. The time away during Winter Break and the month of January will provide a meaningful opportunity to rejuvenate from challenging fall semester and prepare for what will be an equally demanding spring semester.

## Spring Term 2021

- Spring term classes (in person, virtual, or a hybrid mix) will begin on Wednesday, February 10, instead of the previously announced date of Wednesday, February 3.
- Information regarding a phased return to campus in early February for the start of the spring term will be provided later this fall.
- Students who are studying remotely this fall will have the option of continuing in that mode or returning to campus for in-person or hybrid instruction. Likewise, students living in residence halls this fall and taking in-person or hybrid courses may choose to stay at home for the spring and learn remotely. As in the fall, students may not choose all remote courses for the spring and live on campus. Additional information about these options will be forthcoming.
- Because spring term is starting one week later than originally planned, Spring Recess is canceled this year. As with the cancellation of Fall Break this term, this decision is being made to further encourage residential students to remain on campus for the duration of Spring Term once they arrive back at Hollins in early February.
- Plans for COVID-19 testing of students, faculty, and staff during Spring Term will be announced in January.
- Any updates concerning major spring term events such as Hollins Day, the spring version of Tinker Day, and our commencement exercises will also be provided at a later date.

We have begun to create a new FAQ section on the [Carefully Onward microsite](#) to address some of the questions we expect you will have on hearing this news, and we will continue updating this section as additional plans develop and as circumstances require.

While our plans for J-Term and spring term are probably not unexpected, I nevertheless understand how disheartening it is to anticipate disruption throughout the rest of this academic year. Despite this disappointment, you should be extremely proud of how you are taking care of yourselves and one another during this difficult time. I am confident that our profound sense of community will sustain us as we continue to make these necessary sacrifices; I know we have the character and fortitude to persevere in the weeks and months to come.

Levavi Oculos,

Mary Dana Hinton, Ph.D.  
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