

Subject: Changes You Can Expect This Fall

Date: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 at 12:20:27 PM Central Daylight Time

From: Office of the President

To: Garza, Paul

St. Mary's University logo



June 30, 2020

To: St. Mary's University Community

From: Tom Mengler, President

Subject: Changes You Can Expect This Fall

As we continue to prepare for the fall semester, I am writing to provide you with detailed information about our plans. We have undertaken our planning with two priorities in mind: the health and safety of St. Mary's community and the quality of our students' educational experiences.

We have, for example, retained an epidemiologist and worked closely with the crisis management team of San Antonio's University Hospital, asking them to assess our health and safety plans. As cases of COVID-19 increase in San Antonio, we will continue to follow the guidance of government and public health officials and the health experts we have retained; and we will alter our plans as necessary to help mitigate the spread of the virus on campus and in the greater community. The steps we will be taking this fall at St. Mary's are the same steps that you and your families are taking in your personal and work lives.

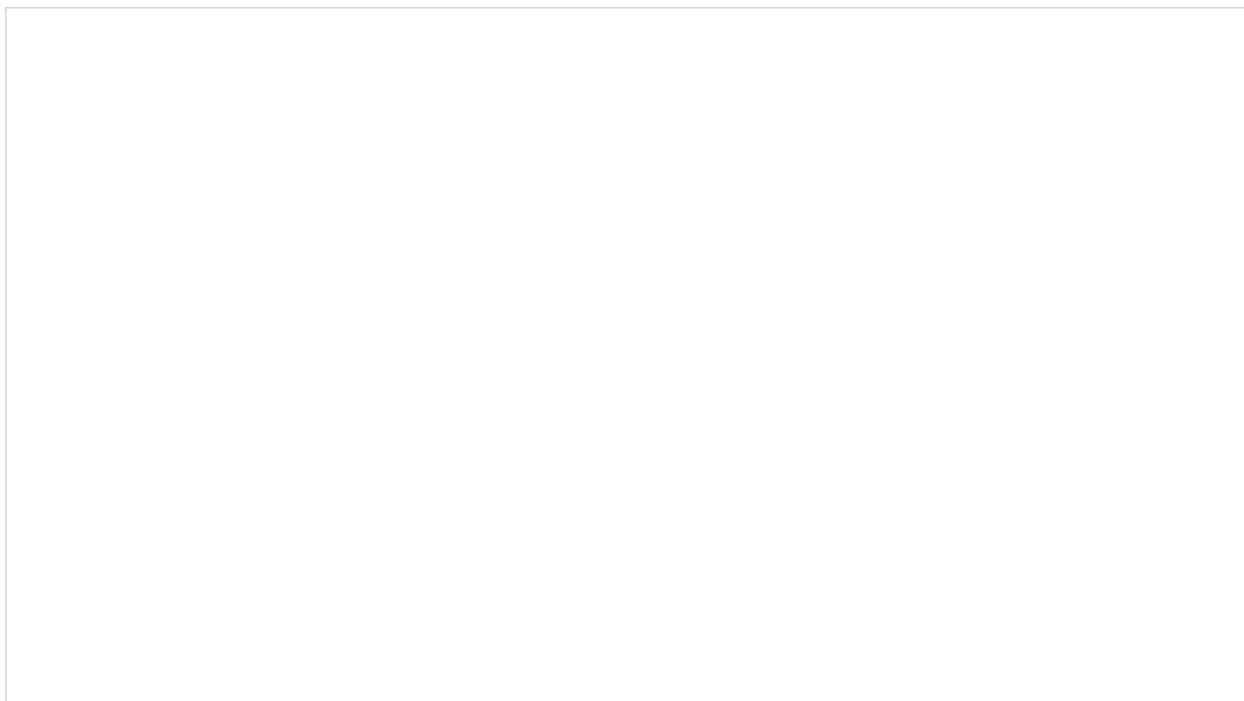
Our academic objectives for our students remain the same — that our students receive an educational experience grounded in faith and the Marianist charism, which will

prepare them for successful careers of leadership on behalf of the common good.

We eagerly look forward to students returning to campus even as we modify our educational and campus environments. The fall semester will begin on Tuesday, Aug. 11 (School of Law classes, Wednesday, Aug. 12), and will end before Thanksgiving. There will be no fall semester break.

The University is prepared to work with every student, as best as possible, to accommodate their needs during the fall semester and to ensure their academic progress. While we hope it will not be necessary, St. Mary's is prepared to pivot on course delivery methods and provide alternative move-in dates for campus housing, if needed.

We need the help of every member of our community — including our incoming Rattlers — to protect against the spread of the virus. We are all in this together. The video below includes health steps from Hugo Salazar Jr., M.D., the Student Health Center Physician, which I pledge to follow and urge you to follow as well.



To care for our community's health as we carry forward our legacy of academic excellence, here are some changes you can expect this fall at St. Mary's University.

- Face masks are required on campus as well as in classrooms, labs, meeting rooms, offices, residence halls, chapels and indoor and outdoor activity spaces.
- A **daily health check tool** will be implemented for faculty, staff and students.

- Self-reporting tools for **employees** and **students** are in place for those with symptoms of COVID-19, as well as protocols for responding to reported cases and staff members trained to support contact tracing.

Academics:

- Many courses will be available in a variety of formats with an option for students to complete all courses online. Other formats will include hybrid courses that combine in-person experiences with an online component (via Zoom, for example) and courses that may be taken entirely online (via Zoom). In all courses, students will interact with their professors and engage in a personalized and effective learning environment.
- Student services — such as the Rattler Success Center, Registrar, Business Office, Financial Aid, Student Counseling Services, the Student Health Center and Student Accessibility Services — will be accessible both in person and remotely.
- Faculty office hours and access to labs and classrooms have been modified to promote student wellness and to facilitate academic success.

Residence Life:

- Most residence halls will be limited to single occupancy. There will be no more than two students per bathroom.
- A designated residence hall will be available for students to self-isolate who test positive for the virus.
- Residence Life will provide final housing assignments along with information about moving in, health and safety measures in the halls and what to expect living on campus this fall in a separate message to resident students in early July.

Campus:

- The campus is being populated with appropriate signage and reminders for social distancing and healthy practices as well as hand-sanitizing stations.
- Classrooms and labs will be sanitized each evening. Air filters designed to mitigate the spread of viruses have been installed in classrooms and residential buildings.
- Campus dining locations will be open but will be modified to support the health and safety of all community members. Modifications include reduced seating, increased use of disposable plates and cups, and removing self-service stations.
- Group gatherings will be limited to indoor and outdoor space capacities following social distancing and guidance from local government and health authorities.
- While on campus this fall, you will encounter community health ambassadors, trained student leaders who have committed to reminding community members to

be safe and follow health and safety guidelines on campus.

As I noted previously, our University leadership is in regular contact with local officials, and we will work within the boundaries of government guidelines and recommended protocols to keep the health and safety of our entire campus community a top priority.

Since 1852 when the Marianists arrived in San Antonio, St. Mary's has cared for its students, faculty and staff as a family cares for its own. Expect the same from me and my colleagues during these difficult times. I urge us all, now more than ever, to work together as a community that cares for others, as much as we care for ourselves.

I look forward to welcoming you to the beginning of the fall semester. May God bless you.

St. Mary's University
The Catholic and Marianist University
www.stmarytx.edu

Share this email:



Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.

Want to view this online? [View online](#)

One Camino Santa Maria
San Antonio, TX | 78228 US

This email was sent to pgarza33@mail.stmarytx.edu.
To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.