

CONQUER & PREVAIL

WOFFORD COLLEGE



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Plans to reopen

Wofford has 503 first-year students who have paid deposits and are planning to join its community in the fall. This is a record for Wofford, and the college has taken steps to prepare for its reopening by establishing two working committees.

The first is a **Working Group for a Return to Campus**. The group will look at best practices and recommend health and safety guidelines so we will be prepared for the return of students and a full team of faculty, staff and coaches. The group, with representatives from across campus, is discussing masks, class schedules and spaces, events of all types, schedules, summer camps, staffing, housing and much more and will share their recommendations by early June.

The second is an **Alternative Calendar Committee**. This group will consider various options for altering the campus calendar if that becomes necessary. They are reviewing scenarios and plans that will allow Wofford to continue instruction on campus in the fall.

The safety, health and well-being of Wofford's campus community will be at the center of consideration during this process.

Join upcoming webinars

Wofford students and faculty aren't the only ones using Zoom. College leaders are using the technology to communicate and to showcase student successes as well. You're invited to join these Zoom events if you're interested:

- **Virtual Town Hall for the Class of 2024, Monday, May 11, 4 p.m.** College leaders will answer questions from our newest Terriers and their families. After you **REGISTER for the Class of 2024 event**, you will receive a link to join.
- **Kendall Weaver: Presidential International Scholar Exhibition, Tuesday, May 12, 4 p.m.** Weaver will share her experience using photos and poetry. She also will take live questions. **JOIN the event.**
- **Wofford College Athletics Virtual Town Hall, Thursday, May 14, 4 p.m.** Ask questions about Wofford student-athletes and how they've managed during COVID-19 and get the latest news from the NCAA and Southern Conference regarding athletics competition in the fall. After you **REGISTER for the athletics town hall**, you will receive a link to join.
- **Class of 2020 Online Studio Art Exhibition, Thursday, May 14, 5 p.m.** Enjoy the senior exhibits of Wofford's Class of 2020 studio art graduates. **JOIN the event.**



P.E. classes go remote

Remote learning forced many classes to get creative. Rod Ray's tennis class is a perfect example.

Some of his students played the sport in high school and looked forward to learning from a Division I tennis coach, but the COVID-19 pandemic forced

students to return home, and continuing the class through Zoom would be difficult. Plus, many communities locked the gates to parks and tennis courts.

So, Ray, Wofford's men's tennis coach, had to adjust the syllabus for his physical education class.

"What is something I can help them with that would be of benefit," says Ray of his thoughts when preparing for remote learning.

He decided changing the class's focus to fitness would be the way to go. Students would determine their fitness level, set goals and commit to doing exercises like pushups, burpees and running in place.

It's been a hit with many students.

"This class is honestly my favorite part of the day," says Emma Whetsell '23, who is from Gilbert, South Carolina. "I either do the assigned workouts in the morning to get my day started or at night before I go to bed to help me unwind after a super busy day of other schoolwork. Even though the class environment has completely changed, it has remained my favorite class this semester and has still delivered most of the benefits of the normal tennis class."

No matter where students are, they've had to adjust to shelter-in-place orders, including one of Ray's students who returned home to England.

"It takes my mind off of being bored and having nothing to do," says Catherine Rand '23 of Asheville, North Carolina.

Rand said Ray's class helped her focus on self-responsibility.

Ray has made regular check-ins about more than charting progress with exercise. He's made sure students are OK during the pandemic and aware of Wofford resources available through the Wellness Center and student services. His weekly emails to the class have included videos emphasizing sportsmanship, and he's correlated being a good sport to being kind and patient with neighbors while shopping and following social distancing guidelines.

"We're all in this together," says Ray.

While students didn't perfect backhands and serves, they learned important lessons.

"It's good to have Coach Ray as a teacher right now because even though we haven't seen him since we left Wofford, I can feel the care he puts into his weekly emails and the passion he has for pushing us and teaching us to live healthier lives even when college or life wants to get in the way," says Hampton Bryant '23, of Greenville, S.C.

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