



FOR PARENTS

**WOFFORD**

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## **JANUARY 2021 PARENT NEWSLETTER**

Happy New Year from the Wofford campus. I hope all of you and your families had an enjoyable holiday season. As we start the spring semester, please let me know if there is anything I can do to help you or your student. While this will be another semester of uncertainty, hope remains high for a successful spring semester followed by Interim. Thanks for your trust in Wofford.

**Thom Henson '96**  
Director of Parent Engagement

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### **A MESSAGE FROM DEAN OF STUDENTS ROBERTA L. HURLEY AND AN OPPORTUNITY TO REGISTER FOR A TOWN HALL FOR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES**

The college has received several emails from students and parents about the start of the spring semester, COVID testing and wellness guidelines. I'm going to answer a few questions now, but I'm also inviting you to a Town Hall event for students and families on Tuesday, Jan. 12 from 5-5:45 p.m. Pre-register [HERE!](#) You may pre-submit questions to [WoffordNews@wofford.edu](mailto:WoffordNews@wofford.edu).

#### **Why do we have to be tested to return to campus?**

Thorough messages about pre-arrival testing went out before and during (Dec. 22) the winter break. Here's an excerpt from one of those messages:

Wofford is requiring all employees and students to get tested for Covid-19 prior to Monday, January 11. The exceptions would be students, faculty and staff who have been approved to work/study remotely for spring 2021.

The Covid-19 tests are available at DHEC sites for free most everywhere in the country. We are allowing both rapid and PCR testing to be submitted. Both of these tests detect active infection, not past exposure, so please do not submit an antibody test.

It is important to be aware when scheduling for return to campus that time is needed for results to be received. The rapid test results typically can be received within a short timeframe. Depending on your location, the PCR test results vary in time. It may take anywhere from 24 hours to several days. The Wellness Center must receive test results by uploading them into patient portal, reviewing and verifying the results. Students will receive a confirmation email the next morning after the system has updated during the night once that has been completed. We have asked that

results be uploaded by 12 p.m. (noon) prior to scheduled move in so the staff has time to complete this process.

Pre-arrival testing and surveillance testing during the semester will allow us to further protect our community, identifying positive cases in people who may be asymptomatic. Case counts in the U.S. and in South Carolina continue to climb. The positivity rate in Spartanburg County is 30%, a public health crisis.

### **If we are all tested, why do we need to remain at Level 4, the most restrictive in terms of gatherings and protections?**

In addition to the above concerns, as of yesterday, hospital capacity in the Upstate is at 83%. We cannot keep people from coming on and off campus. Students have jobs in the area. Students, faculty and staff commute to the campus. We will evaluate at least weekly as the semester progresses with hopes of relaxing restrictions. The COVID Working Group, which includes representatives from across campus, consults with professionals at Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System as well as DHEC. The guidelines that they developed are designed to protect students, faculty, staff and our neighbors in the Spartanburg community. The guidelines were also created at the request of students who wanted a clearer understanding of protocols and expectations.

### **How can you know definitively that students are getting COVID from parties and not in academic spaces?**

While there are no definitive answers, staff in the Wofford Wellness Center have done an excellent job of contact tracing. The evidence available to us from students who have tested positive for COVID-19 indicates that parties and off-campus dining were the greatest spreaders. We have found no evidence that academic spaces contributed to community spread. We are grateful that students have been honest and forthcoming about their activities and close contacts, which allowed us to contain the spread of the virus during the fall.

Unfortunately, the month of December and the start of January have seen nationwide spikes. To keep students on campus, engaged and healthy, we are planning many additional social opportunities and days specifically designed to allow our community to focus on mental well-being. The spring may look more like the fall than we would like, but we can still get through this together!

Visit [Wofford.edu/WoffordTogether](https://www.wofford.edu/WoffordTogether) to see our community's Wellness Guidelines.

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## **FROM THE REGISTRAR'S OFFICE**

- Spring 2021 drop/add is open and will remain open until Jan. 8.
- Seniors need to check their degree audits and verify that all degree requirements are complete or in-progress (with the exception of Interim).
- All students who were to apply to graduate have been emailed multiple reminders. Students had until Friday, Nov. 20, to apply to graduate. Students that did not apply to graduate need to contact the Registrar's Office immediately.
- Students have until Friday, Jan. 8, to update their spring schedules in order to

register for any remaining unmet requirements (with the exception of interim). As always, per the catalog: It is the responsibility of each student to know and meet the requirements for the completion of his or her degree. Anyone who has questions about their degree requirements should contact their advisor ASAP.

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## **FROM FINANCIAL AID**

### **FAFSA Deadline Approaching!**

The FAFSA priority deadline for returning students is quickly approaching! If you haven't already, be sure to have the FAFSA submitted by March 15, 2021 to ensure your child receives all of the financial aid that they are eligible for. If you're unsure whether or not you need to file, feel free to contact our office! Generally speaking, a FAFSA must be filed each year to receive all types of need based aid, including federal loans, federal and state grants, and the Wofford College grant. Financial aid packages for returning students will be released in June.

### **Housing for Spring**

If your student plans to change their status for Spring or Interim, please be sure to have them contact us. This is an important step to verify that we keep your child's financial aid information up to date. In most cases a financial aid package will not change based on the student's housing choice, but if their total aid package is close to our Cost of Attendance, moving off campus could result in a change.

### **Financial Aid is on BannerWeb!**

Have you checked it out? Make sure your child has granted you proxy access and expanded your permissions to include Financial Aid! For instructions on how to create and manage a proxy account, visit the [proxy access webpage](#).

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## **FROM INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS**

### **The Frederick Douglass Global Fellowship**

The Frederick Douglass Global Fellowship honors the legacy of the abolitionist and statesman with a fully funded summer study abroad program developed for students of color with special emphasis on leadership, social justice, agitation for positive change and cross-cultural understanding. Students interested in applying can learn more at [www.ciee.org/go-abroad/college-study-abroad/scholarships/frederick-douglass-global-fellowship](http://www.ciee.org/go-abroad/college-study-abroad/scholarships/frederick-douglass-global-fellowship). Applications are due Feb. 14.

### **The Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship**

The Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship is an opportunity available to students who receive a Federal Pell grant. Eligible students may receive up to \$8,000 in funding for a study abroad or intern abroad experience. The internal application deadline for students planning to study abroad during summer 2021, fall 2021 or spring 2022 is Feb. 21 at 11:59 p.m. For more information and to access the application, visit [wofford.studioabroad.com/?go=GilmanScholarship](http://wofford.studioabroad.com/?go=GilmanScholarship).

### **C. Yorke Lawson Cultural Immersion Scholarship**

The generous C. Yorke Lawson Cultural Immersion Scholarship is designed to

support ambitious students wishing to study abroad for a full academic year with a focus on cultural integration. This competitive scholarship will fund one student for the 2021-2022 academic year. The application deadline is Feb. 26 at 11:59 p.m. For more information and to access the application, visit [wofford.studioabroad.com/?go=Lawson](http://wofford.studioabroad.com/?go=Lawson).

### **Application deadline for Summer/Fall 2021 study abroad programs**

If your student is interested in studying or interning abroad next summer or fall, please encourage them to schedule a 30-minute advising appointment with an International Programs advisor: [tinyurl.com/oipschedule](http://tinyurl.com/oipschedule).

### **Wofford Travel Grants**

Students planning on participating in a summer or fall 2021 study abroad program are encouraged to apply for a Wofford Travel Grant. Completed applications are due March 14 at 11:59 p.m. Financial need and academic merit are the principle considerations in awarding these grants. To learn more and to apply, visit [wofford.studioabroad.com/?go=travelgrant](http://wofford.studioabroad.com/?go=travelgrant).

### **International Programs Coronavirus FAQ Page**

View frequently asked questions on Wofford's response to the coronavirus [here](#).

### **Coming Soon: Wofford Study Abroad in Germany**

The office of international programs is excited to offer a brand new semester-long, faculty-led study abroad program in Freiburg, Germany starting fall 2021. Stay tuned for more details!

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