Dear Oxford Class of 2022,

I write to follow up on the University’s announcement made earlier today about the fall semester and the necessary changes made in response to COVID-19. Emory and Oxford believe deeply in the value of the residential living-and-education experience for our students, but we also recognize that COVID-19 poses a particular threat to the health and well-being of our community. As a result, this fall’s campus experience will be significantly different from those you have come to expect and enjoy.

Our top priority remains the safety and well-being of students, faculty, and staff. From the beginning of the pandemic, Emory has consulted continuously with a team of internationally known medical and public-health experts from across the university, Emory Healthcare, and beyond. As we watched COVID-19 rates in Europe and Asia climb and then steadily decline, we began to worry that the same did not yet hold true for many parts of the US. As such we made the decision to cancel in-person classes at both Emory and Oxford, so this fall all classes will be offered online.

I invite you to join me for an online presentation this evening (Friday) at 7 p.m. EDT, when I and other Oxford leaders will present information to first-year students and your parents/guardians in more detail and will respond to your questions. Please register here. This web event will be recorded and will be available on the Oxford Forward website shortly after its conclusion.

A few weeks ago, each of you submitted a housing and academic form, and the overwhelming majority of you expressed your intention to reside and take courses on campus. A small group of you marked “unsure,” as you are understandably monitoring the public health situation and your individual needs. While we expect that most of you will study with us on campus, you also have the option to undertake your semester remotely through the robust set of online courses that our faculty members are offering. Later today you will receive a letter from Oxford’s Residential Education and Services with housing assignment to reconfirm your intention to live on campus for the fall semester. Please sign the notice if you intend to live with us and be ready for the information that will be sent next week on your fall housing plan.

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For general questions or other matters: ox.finaid@emory.edu, ox.admission@emory.edu, or 770-784-8328.
For questions about student Life staff, please email us at ox.lifestaff@emory.edu.
For Undergraduate Admissions, please email us at ox.admission@emory.edu or call 770-784-8328.

In addition, you can contact these offices across Oxford with your questions:
- Housing: Residential Education and Services at RES@emory.edu or 770-784-3383.
- Coursework, class schedules, or other academic questions: the Advising Support Center at oxadvising@emory.edu or 770-784-6587.
- Financial Aid: ox.finaid@emory.edu, or 770-784-9324.
- Academic Support Center: stacy.cowan@emory.edu or 770-784-9380.

In closing, let me say that we hope that this will be a unique fall semester that we will never forget. The Oxford College experience is a communal one and we hope that you will find meaningful relationships with others at Oxford, have fun, and make progress toward your degree. In all that we do, your well-being and education will be our chief concerns.

I hope to join with you on Zoom this evening at the link above. Please do not hesitate to reach out to your advisor throughout the fall semester to discuss your Oxford goals and to answer your questions and to plot your fall semester.

Douglas A. Hicks, Dean

Katherine P. Hyatt, Professor of Religion
Oxford College of Emory University

Oxford Forward