

Dear Student,

In the coming weeks, you may notice some information in your student portal related to class schedules for the Spring 2021 semester.

The information will show that class schedules will continue to follow the Tuesday/Thursday, Wednesday/Friday and all-Mondays format. It is still too early to determine whether those classes will be held with 100% face-to-face instruction or will follow the blended learning model currently being utilized during the fall semester. That will likely be decided in December based on the COVID-19 conditions and Arizona health regulations at the time.

So, your class schedule detail will be accurate for dates and times – the only thing that will change is whether the instructional model will include two face-to-face sessions each week or if it will continue in the blended model with one face-to-face session accompanied by a second day of synchronous learning in the same time slot each week.

Courses in most academic programs will also continue to be offered in a 100% online modality for those students who are more comfortable taking classes in that environment during the spring semester.

#### **Spring semester start date**

The spring semester will begin Jan. 4. To provide students with as much flexibility as possible while travelling back to campus during the holidays, the first week of classes for most programs will occur in an online format. Exceptions are students in the nursing and athletic training programs who have gone through the secondary acceptance process and are in the clinical rotations of their programs. Instruction in those programs will remain face-to-face during the first week.

If students wish to move back to campus the weekend of Jan. 2-3, they are welcome to be on campus at that time while taking online classes during that first week. For those who wish to return at a time during the Jan. 4 week that is more convenient, the online format gives them the flexibility to do so.

Move-in for students with a Spring Only contract will take place Jan. 2-9 by appointment. Students new to GCU (either fall or spring being their first semester with GCU) will be given priority of a Jan. 2 morning appointment. No appointment is necessary for students who are continuing from fall to spring.

Room and board costs are not affected since students may return to their residence halls any time during the week.

Starting the fall semester in an online modality went very well as students were able to first meet their professors and classmates in a remote learning environment in preparation for face-to-face instruction. The move to campus was smooth and less stressful, since learners already began a relationship with their instructors and fellow classmates through small group breakout sessions and live chats.

If you have any questions, please contact your Student Services Counselor.