

Updated March 17

March 16, 2020

Dear College of Art and Design Students:

I am writing to follow up on the University's transition (rit.edu/coronavirus) to offer your courses in alternative delivery modes. Although we are working out many details, let me begin to outline the plan we are developing for our college.

First, your well-being and ability to successfully complete your coursework for the spring 2020 semester is of the utmost importance to us. I want to assure you that you have the full support of the college including your faculty, staff, and advisors who will be helping you through the remainder of the semester. Please **continue to check your RIT email and myCourses** for updates and information. Additionally, we have a special **Inside CAD** section especially for our college's concerns: <https://inside.cad.rit.edu/>

Classes: Classes are cancelled from March 16-22, 2020. **Classes will resume March 23, 2020 and all instruction will be offered using alternative delivery modes** (myCourses, text-based, PDF PowerPoints, art, crafts, and design assignments and problems to be completed remotely, etc.). There will be no face-to-face instruction offered on campus.

Each faculty member is reviewing the approved Goals and Outcomes for their respective courses and will provide an approach that meets these approved criteria. These course Goals and Outcomes are approved by CAD, RIT, New York State Education Department (NYSED), and National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD).

- Students should expect to hear from faculty with more information about each of your courses.
- Academic advisors continue to be available; work with your advisor to determine the best way to connect for advising (video conferencing, phone, email, etc.).
- Students utilizing Access Services and DSO will continue to be supported through our alternative delivery modes for the spring semester.

You may ask, "How will I be able to complete my courses, many of which I am accustomed to taking in a studio setting, if they are delivered online?" Please note that we are working on alternative delivery modalities and while much of the information (assignments, critique, reference material, et al.) for these courses may be delivered to students through online modalities, the assignments, instruction and challenges will be anything but "online only." Earlier this week, I wrote to a CAD student "These courses will surely include technical and physical making that utilizes the skills you are learning in your studios as well. Assignments will be challenging and demand our student artists, designers, and craftspeople to utilize all they have learned and are learning to meet new problems and provide inventive, creative, and inspirational solutions." I am confident you will continue to amaze us as you always do.

Earlier today, I received a very long message from NASAD (the accrediting agency for schools of art and design) providing encouragement and guidance on how we can and must work on alternative delivery modes to our education models during these extraordinary times. I won't include the entirety of the email but I encourage you to take a look—once you get to the section on Coursework and Basic functions it starts to get interesting, in my humble opinion (<https://nasad.arts-accredit.org/about/current-notice/covid-19-and-related-issues/>).

Their section "Creativity and Solutions" begins: "As artists, we are centered in creativity, in finding new ways to express and do. **Difficult times call for creativity and for timely and carefully considered**

experimentation, especially with method, but also with function as necessary. Consider building temporary solutions around appropriately selected features of artistic work such as theme and variation, idea development over time or in space, controlled balance and imbalance, proportion, metamorphosis, controlled scattering and gathering, juxtapositions of opposites, random or apparently random presentations of material that aggregate in time, recognition and use of natural orders, sequences, and reactions, and so forth. Remember that while fulfilling specific curricular content-based functions, it is acceptable to break from traditional conventions. Often such breaks become the bases for discoveries that become or influence new conventions.”

I know that these are challenging times but this is what an education in the arts, design, and crafts prepares us to tackle and even flourish.

Remote Technology Assistance: Transitioning to alternative delivery modes will involve a number of new experiences for many students. One of the most important is working with technology in new ways. Please contact your instructors if you have any questions about the alternative delivery mode technology for your courses. Any student who needs assistance with any of the RIT supported technologies can also contact the ITS Service Desk. Students can create a work request ticket at <https://www.rit.edu/its/help-support/work-requests>, call (585) 475-4357 or email the servicedesk@rit.edu.

CADTech is also working on resources to support students and you can stay up to date by visiting <https://confluence.cad.rit.edu/display/CIASKB/CADTech+COVID-19+Response> or our insidecad.rit.edu site.

Campus Facilities: Students are strongly discouraged from returning to campus. If you are home, stay home.

Many services such as [dining](#) and [transportation](#) will be operating on reduced and modified schedules. We will be closing spaces that invite large groups of people, including the Student Life Center, Red Barn, Global Village retail areas, effective immediately.

RIT made the decision to close university housing. Students residing in university housing must vacate their assigned space **NO LATER THAN APRIL 5**. Any students now on campus and residing in university housing will be asked to ensure their Spring Residential Plan is updated on the [mylife portal](#). Those with extenuating circumstances, who cannot leave and have no safe place to go, should indicate that in their Spring Residential Plan in order to make arrangements. Students who need to retrieve items in order to successfully complete the semester away from campus must schedule an appointment via the Spring Residential Plan on the [mylife portal](#). If you are worried about your belongings, and live in RIT Housing, we will provide information on how get them safely stored until you can return.

Books and Supplies: We realize the inconvenience and disruption this unprecedented situation continues to cause. Please communicate directly with your faculty and academic advisor about any specific course materials you need.

Accommodations: For disability-related accommodations for students, please contact the DSO Office at DSO@rit.edu and Access Services at accessservices@rit.edu

Cooperative Experiences and other Experiential Learning: Students engaged off-site teaching and learning (i.e., co-op, student teaching, or clinical placements) should continue those assignments, working closely with their employers and supervisors. For co-op, visit the university website coronavirusresponse.rit.edu for FAQs or contact your career services coordinator in the Office of Career Services and Cooperative Education, 585-475-2301 or careerservices@rit.edu.

Assistantships: Students with assistantships should work directly with their supervisors to make needed adjustments.

Student Employees: Your supervisors have likely already reached out to you. At your earliest convenience, please contact your supervisors to let them know of your plans for the remainder of the semester. Please check with them to determine if there are any remote work opportunities. At this time, student employees who wish to return to campus will have work available. Some jobs have shifted so you may not be doing the same work, but paid at your normal rate. If you have further questions, please contact the Student Employment Office at 585-475-2631 or studentemployment@rit.edu.

International Students: International students with questions or concerns should be in touch via iss@rit.edu. International Student Services has determined there will be no negative impact on a student's immigration status if they remain enrolled and continue their studies online (from inside or outside the U.S.) International students should direct visa and other questions related to international study, living, and travel to iss@rit.edu or 585-475-7433.

Student Health: The best way to prevent illness is to make every effort to avoid exposure to this virus. Wash your hands often and thoroughly for at least twenty seconds. Cover coughs with a tissue or your elbow. Don't touch your eyes, nose, mouth, or face. Students should practice social distancing and avoid large gatherings.

If you think you have been exposed to COVID-19 or if you feel ill, call your personal healthcare provider for medical advice. You may also contact the RIT [Student Health Center](http://www.rit.edu/health) at 585-475-2255 or email studenthealth@rit.edu. In addition to physical health services, you can reach our [Counseling and Psychological Services](http://www.rit.edu/counseling) at 585-475-2261. For after-hours mental health needs call 855-436-1245. There will be limited staff available on site at the Student Health Center and Counseling and Psychological Services.

Please let us know if you have questions and we will continue to provide updates as planning and the situation evolve. Our highest priority is your health and wellbeing.

Our goal is to help you continue to make progress towards your degree. The entire college is here to support you as we navigate a different pathway than expected this semester.

Please email any questions to coronavirusresponse@rit.edu and continue to check rit.edu/coronavirus for updates.

I want to leave you with a quote from photography Professor Frank Cost "This will be the most challenging course I have ever taught and it will likely be the most challenging the students will take in their collegiate career. As I shared with the students, this semester will be their defining moment and will be the one they remember for the rest of their lives." The remainder of this semester will ask us all to do what artists and designers do best-- solve demanding problems through creative thinking and making even when our resources, our comfort zone, our ideas and ideals, and our accustomed approaches are at risk.

My best to you all in creativity-
Todd Jokl
Dean and Professor
College of Art and Design