April 10, 2020

TO: Students

FROM: Teresa A. Sullivan
Interim Provost
Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dear students,

Congratulations on the grit and resilience you are showing in continuing to pursue your degrees despite difficult circumstances. Yesterday Governor Whitmer extended the stay-at-home executive order through April 30. Please continue to observe its requirements for physical distancing and gatherings when in Michigan.

This message is an update on some important issues.

Census Forms. If you have not yet completed your US Census form, please do so and indicate East Lansing (or environs) as your residence. The Census Bureau has asked for this indicator because MSU (and nearby towns) would be your “usual” place of residence during a school year.

Summer Sessions. Last week MSU announced that it would be converting all in-person courses offered during Summer 2020 Full Session and Session One into online courses. This week President Stanley and I made the decision to convert all MSU summer courses to an online format, including those held during Session Two. (This change does not affect clinical courses in the health science colleges.)

Given the challenges our students face because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have learned that many of you are actually seeking increased opportunities to take online courses this summer. In response to these needs, MSU is offering a larger number of online courses in both first and second summer sessions this year, emphasizing those courses that typically have high demand. Courses will be added to the summer schedule over the next week.

For students currently enrolled in Summer 2020 in-person classes, those classes will be migrated to the new online status automatically; you do not need to do anything to remain enrolled in your current summer courses. For students interested in enrolling in summer classes, continue to check the schedule of courses over the coming week, as new classes are added.

More information about summer classes will be shared on the Keep Learning website as it becomes available.

Academic Advising. We strongly encourage you to reach out to your academic advisors with any questions or needs you may have. This includes questions about how this change affects current summer 2020 enrollment and questions about how this change expands summer 2020 course opportunities for all students. The Office for International Students and Scholars has created a COVID-19 information for international students, scholars, faculty, and staff webpage that provides guidance about a number of issues, including online advising for international students.
**Academic Integrity.** MSU expects that you will continue to uphold high standards of academic integrity in the online environment, just as you would in taking courses in person. When you graduate, who you are as a person is even more important than the marks on your transcript. Being honorable in your actions is an expectation that your family, classmates, and future employers have of you. Every day, by your actions, you form your character. Don’t let the current situation lead you to actions you will regret.

**Graduate School.** For some of you graduating this semester, graduate school has long been in your plans. For others of you, graduate school might become an option if your job or internship has been put on hold because of economic conditions. I have asked deans to consider late applications for master’s degrees from May 2020 MSU graduates.

**Graduation.** And speaking of graduation, early congratulations to the hard-working and resilient Class of 2020. I expect soon to be able to send information about a virtual recognition ceremony for you, and some of your colleges are also planning ways to recognize your achievements. These virtual events will not substitute for a future occasion in which you may participate in person in a graduation ceremony. That future event is definitely on our agenda.

**The Weekend.** I hope you are well and looking forward to the weekend. For many of you, this weekend has special religious significance. I trust in your creativity to celebrate festivities, even under the restrictive conditions in which we now live. The measures you are taking now, while inconvenient and even annoying, help to preserve the lives of the most vulnerable among us. And for some of us, those vulnerable individuals are at-risk members of our own families.

Spartans Will!

Very truly yours,

Teresa A. Sullivan
Interim Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs