



Office of the President



August 4, 2020

Dear Students and Families of Mitchell College and Thames at Mitchell,

Just as August is a time of anticipation for all of you preparing to begin the fall semester, it is an exciting time for our faculty and staff gearing up to welcome you back! We have been working hard all summer to ensure a safe and well-planned campus reopening for our Mariner family at the end of the month.

Thank you for your patience in waiting for more detailed information about our return to campus, as our plans for reopening are finalized. I remind you to please continue to check the [Adjusting Our Sails](#) webpage for updates. There you will find answers to many of your questions, with additional FAQs being added regularly.

Coming soon, look for emails from Campus Life about *Anchors Aweigh!*, Mitchell's new student orientation, and fun and informative virtual events planned for returning students. (**New** Mitchell and Thames at Mitchell students and families: I can't wait to meet you at *Virtual Beach Bash* on Friday, August 7, for what I've heard is one of the most fun Mitchell events of the year! If you haven't [registered yet](#), please do so today.)

You are likely wondering about your **academic schedule** for the fall. A detailed schedule of courses, times and delivery methods will be released soon, and your advisors will be available during this month to make any schedule adjustments.

We remain committed to be responsive to the needs of students, the comfort of our instructors and the appropriate pedagogy that is the hallmark of our Abilities based curriculum. All courses will emphasize synchronous instruction (instruction happening in real time). For those classes meeting in person, classroom spaces have been set up to follow social distancing requirements. As a reminder, all classes for the first two weeks beginning September 1 will be delivered remotely, and all of Session II after Thanksgiving break will take place remotely from home.

Some of you have had questions about **support services** for the fall semester. For the health and safety of the campus community, and while observing social distancing and room density guidelines, our support services will be a mix of online and in-person delivery, by appointment only. In-person schedules vary by department: (*Remote and in-person delivery of support services may be altered based on student needs)

- The **Bentsen Learning Center (BLC)** will offer full capacity services for students in a combination of remote and in-person opportunities for support.

- The **Office of Accessibility Services** will offer virtual services. The office will be open one day per week for in-person appointments, by appointment only.
- **Academic Coaching for Empowerment (ACE)** will be delivered remotely.
- The **Tutoring Center and the Writing Zone** will operate online. Tutor.com will also be available to students 24/7 and has increased both their offerings as well as staffing.
- **Advising services** will continue online, with individual in-person appointments with your Academic Advisor available one day per week, by appointment only.
- The **Office of Integrative Career Development (ICD)** will also operate virtually, with in-person appointments available two days per week, by appointment only.
- The **Registrar** will provide virtual services online, with in-person appointments two days per week, by appointment only.

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Thames at Mitchell College will offer students:

- Instructor-led support in all courses through virtual and in-person scheduled appointments
- Required weekly online or in-person meetings with their academic advisor, who will also be available for support and for academic coordination
- Online and in-person tutoring for all courses
- Required weekly online or in-person weekly meetings with their Residence Hall Directors for the social seminar class

All appointments, remote and in-person, for Mitchell and Thames at Mitchell will be made via Starfish. If you are a new Mitchell College student, you will be taught how to use Starfish during your FC120 Information Technology course. If you are a new Thames student, you will learn how to use it during the orientation period.

Library services will operate a full schedule online, with more limited library building hours. Following health and safety protocols, building occupancy guidelines limit the number of patrons and staff allowed in the building at the same time. Library patrons are encouraged to use the library virtually instead of physically using the building by way of chat, appointments by phone and Zoom, email, enhanced online tutorials and guides, access to expansive digital collections and virtual instructional support.

Mitchell College partners with Northeast Medical Group, part of Yale New Haven Health, to provide **health and wellness services** to students at Mitchell College and Thames at Mitchell College. The health clinic, located in the Yarnall Center, operates during regular hours Monday through Friday, and is staffed by a registered nurse, a physician's assistant and a licensed psychologist. A dedicated COVID-19 telemedicine hotline is also available for use after hours.

Just a reminder that all full-time students are required to maintain adequate health insurance, either under your own private plan or under the Student Health Insurance Plan sponsored by the College. By September 15, 2020, all full-time new and returning students must visit www.gallagherstudent.com/Mitchell to enroll in a plan **or** sign a waiver if you choose to maintain medical coverage in a plan other than the College-sponsored plan. If you do not opt out by the deadline, you will automatically be enrolled.

As in other areas of the college, the **mailroom** will have occupancy limits but will operate during regular hours, following state and federal guidance.

Please note that as our guidance and guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the State of Connecticut, and local health authorities follow the ever-changing situation with COVID-19, all plans and dates are subject to change.

Please continue to email any questions that you might have to communications@mitchell.edu, and we will try to answer them as quickly as we can.

I have enjoyed spending these last several weeks getting to know the Mitchell College campus. As beautiful as it is, I can't wait to see it as it is meant to be seen – with all of you here. Stay safe and healthy, and see you soon!

Tracy Y. Espy, Ph.D.
President

mitchell.edu