Date/Time Sent: Friday, March 13, 2020
From: Hugh Sherman, Dean (via COBcommunications@ohio.edu)
To: College of Business Undergraduate Students
Subject: COVID-19 Update for Graduate Business Students

Dear graduate business students,

As you know, Ohio University is taking precautionary measures to keep our communities healthy and safe in light of the global coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. We are unaware of any cases of coronavirus at any Ohio University campus or location. However, as the virus becomes more widespread, Ohio University and the College of Business are taking every precaution to ensure the health and safety of our communities and the public at large.

The following message contains important information about how we will support you as a graduate student while in-person instruction is suspended on Ohio University campuses. Please read this email carefully and continue to regularly check your student email for future updates.

FOR MBA & MSA

COURSEWORK FOR FULL-TIME, RESIDENTIAL MBA and MSA STUDENTS
The University has announced an extension of Spring Break through March 22. Beginning March 23, your courses will transition online through the end of the spring 2020 semester. Classes will continue as laid out by Ohio University’s 2019-20 academic calendar.

The College of Business remains open with faculty and staff available to support students remotely. While we know that moving all courses to an alternative delivery method is disruptive, we feel that this provides the best option for reducing the risks of spreading the virus. It’s important that all graduate business students remain engaged in coursework through online learning and that they stay in touch with faculty about their progress/assignments. Professors will contact you before March 18 with additional details and directions that are specific to each course.

GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIPS FOR MBA AND MSA STUDENTS
MBA and MSA Graduate Assistants are expected to continue their assignments while completing coursework in an alternative/virtual format. With the extension of spring break through March 22, your GA work requirement will resume on March 23. GAs who work within the COB should plan to complete their assignments remotely while in-person classes are suspended. Please contact your GA supervisor as soon as possible, but no later than Wednesday, March 18 at 12 p.m. (Eastern Standard Time), to discuss your specific assignment. If you have questions or concerns after speaking with your supervisor, please reach out to Natalie Wittmann.
EVENTS, PROGRAMS, AND TRAVEL

As you know, the University is taking every precaution to prevent potential exposure to the Coronavirus. This is a quickly evolving situation, and as we receive guidance from our state and federal officials, we must continue to reevaluate and adjust our plans on an ongoing basis.

In light of current guidance, the College of Business is suspending all in-person events and meetings through May 31. As of today, this does NOT include commencement exercises that are scheduled May 1-2. Program events among those canceled include the MSA Capstone Trip and One-Year MBA International Trip. These changes will not impact the ability for you to complete your program graduation requirements on time.

As additional decisions are made, we will communicate with affected individuals as quickly as possible.

FOR FTMACC

COURSEWORK FOR FULL-TIME, RESIDENTIAL MACC STUDENTS
The MAcc Program is considered to be on a flexible academic schedule. As such, your classes will be transitioned online beginning March 16, 2020 and continue online through the end of the spring 2020 semester.

The College of Business remains open with faculty and staff available to support students remotely. While we know that moving all courses to an alternative delivery method is disruptive, we feel that this provides the best option for reducing the risks of spreading the virus. It’s important that all graduate business students remain engaged in coursework through online learning and that they stay in touch with faculty about their progress/assignments. Professors will contact you before March 18 with additional details and directions that are specific to each course.

GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIPS FOR MACC STUDENTS
MAcc Graduate Assistants are expected to continue their assignments while completing coursework in an alternative/virtual format, resuming their work assignment on March 16. Please contact your GA supervisor as soon as possible, but no later than Monday March 16 at 12 p.m. (Eastern Standard Time), to discuss your specific assignments and expectations regarding your assignment. GAs who work within the COB should plan to complete their assignments remotely while in-person classes are suspended. If you have questions or concerns after speaking with your supervisor, please reach out to Natalie Wittmann.

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FOR PROFESSIONAL AND ONLINE STUDENTS (PMBA, PMAcc, PMBan, PMSA, OMBA, OMBAn, OMAcc, MAA)

COURSEWORK AND RESIDENCIES FOR STUDENTS ENROLLED IN PART-TIME, ONLINE AND PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS

Ohio University’s decision to transition in-person classes to an online format will not impact your existing online or virtual classes. However, the University is taking every precaution to prevent potential exposure to the Coronavirus. In light of current guidance, the College of Business is suspending all in-person residencies, events, and meetings through May 31. As of today, this does NOT include commencement exercises that are scheduled May 1-2. As such, Dublin-based PMBA Residencies will be converted to virtual sessions through May 31 and the Athens-based Leadership Development Program (LDP) scheduled for April 24-25 has been canceled. An update regarding the June Athletics Leadership Forum for the MAA Program will be provided in mid-April or sooner. These changes will not impact the ability for you to complete your program graduation requirements on time. Please check your OHIO email address for additional communication regarding the changes specific to your program and situation.

Our part-time students live in nearly every U.S. state and continue to be exposed to a quickly growing number of confirmed cases. If you experience a personal situation related to the Coronavirus that may impact your academic performance, please communicate with your faculty as quickly as possible so that we can take appropriate action to support you.
FOR ALL

SUPPORT
We remain committed to your academic, professional, and personal success. The following webpage has been developed to organize information and resources for our college and campus community: https://business.ohio.edu/coronavirus.

Over the next few weeks, please stay in contact with your faculty, advisors, and staff. Let your instructors know if you have questions or are experiencing difficulties. For technical support, including Blackboard, visit the OIT website, email servicedesk@ohio.edu, or call 740.593.1222.

If you need additional assistance, have questions that professors/advisors are unable to answer, or if you have not heard from all of your current College of Business course professors by March 18, please contact the chair of your department (or school). You can find a list of COB chairs and directors here.

Finally, although we must treat this health risk very seriously, there is no need to panic. Let’s remain calm, stay informed, communicate effectively, and stay healthy (both physically and mentally). I’m confident that we can work together to support each other and minimize disruption – especially for our students who are also busy parents, spouses, community members, and working professionals. Take care and stay safe, Bobcats.

Sincerely,
Dean Sherman