

July 24, 2020

Dear Sofia Community Member:

Based on our continued monitoring of public health data and policy guidelines, Sofia University's leadership team has decided to continue its adherence to "social distancing" for instruction. This means that all campus-based classes scheduled for Fall 2020 will make use of Zoom (or equivalent) webinar technology and the Canvas online course shells, instead of face-to-face classroom meetings. Synchronous meetings will take place at the times posted in the registration calendar. The same is true for fall MACP intensives and MATP/PhD seminars; these will also be conducted virtually.

We delayed this announcement until receiving word that the federal government had rescinded plans to restrict predominantly online education for international students. Sofia will continue to treat **virtual courses** as residential/campus courses, where meeting times are set and attendance is taken. For F1 students nothing will be changing from the spring and summer quarters, and your visas will not be affected as long as enrollment continues with a fulltime course load and satisfactory academic progress towards the degree is maintained.

We conducted a survey of students enrolled in virtual courses from March through early July. The overwhelming response has been positive, and approximately 65% of respondents encouraged the university to maintain virtual course offerings. For the time being, that is our plan.

We will continue to monitor the public health situation, government guidelines, and community members' perspectives as decisions are made for the winter quarter and beyond. The current announcement is for Fall 2020 only.

Sofia's goal is to provide a robust learning experience for students while, simultaneously, working within the new safety and health landscape.

Best wishes for your continued safety and education,

STUART J. SIGMAN, PH.D.
Provost and Chief Academic Officer
Accreditation Liaison Officer