

Dear UNE Undergraduate, Graduate and Professional Students:

As you know, President Herbert sent a message on Friday describing what the University will be doing in response to the coronavirus pandemic. We made the difficult, but necessary decision to move the majority of undergraduate education to online platforms, with students not returning to campus after spring break, and with graduate and professional students (including advanced dental hygiene and advanced nursing students) having their didactic teaching move online but also having specific in-person teaching and training where that is necessary and required.

We recognize that you have many questions about the ramifications of these decisions and the details of how this will work. We are writing to follow up with you to begin outlining the next steps and the basic structure of each of your academic programs for the coming weeks. We know that this situation has been difficult, and we are doing our best to develop plans to continue your instruction through the spring semester with as little academic impact as possible while providing the best education we can for you under these difficult circumstances.

The university leadership team, working with faculty, professional staff, and the academic support units, have all been developing the details of these alternative approaches, and you will be receiving communications directly from your academic program leader (dean, advisor, department chair, or program director depending on your program) in the coming days regarding the instructional and testing methods they plan to employ for the remainder of the semester.

You are likely already familiar with many of these methods. However, we thought it might be useful to provide some instructions about how to access and use the instructional and testing tools in one easy to access location at <https://une1.sharepoint.com/sites/CTR>. Here you will find information about how to access and use Blackboard, Zoom, and various other teaching and testing tools. You will also find contact information for numerous people and resources should you need help with any of these tools.

We know that the COVID-19 outbreak has caused significant disruption across the country as well as in your own academic and personal lives. The decisions and actions we have taken at UNE have been based on the best practices being recommended for higher education, and our own evaluation of what is in the best interests of all our students, faculty, professional staff, and the communities in which we all live and work. Our dual goal is to ensure the health and safety of our community while continuing to fulfill our educational mission.

We are Nor'easters — strong and resilient — and together we will get through this. These are the fundamental and shared values of our university, our home state of Maine, and our New England region. The faculty, professional staff, and the entire UNE community embody this spirit and are here to do what it takes to deliver the quality educational experience you expect from all of us. Please explore the resources that are available and make yourselves familiar with them. You will hear shortly from your individual programs about how these will be used to continue your education and training soon.

We wish you the very best in the weeks ahead.

Joshua Hamilton, Ph.D.

*Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs*