

Hiram College Community,

I want to thank all of you for keeping our campus safe with your adherence to HIRAM 5 protocols so far this semester. Everyone's efforts have allowed us to have a successful fall semester and first six weeks of spring semester. This message will provide you with information regarding plans for the rest of the spring semester. As always, the plans are subject to change depending on the course of the pandemic.

TERM BREAK – April 15 - 18

The Term break will now only run from April 15-April 18. The spring three-week term will begin on Monday, April 19th.

In order to continue our on-campus classes and to permit in-person commencement ceremonies, we want to strongly encourage all students to stay on-campus during these upcoming weeks. Currently, we are only seeing cases of COVID-19 arise after students have returned after extended visits to familiar locations. In addition, if we follow this plan we do not have to participate in the National Guard all-testing program. **We are encouraging all graduating seniors to remain on campus.**

Remaining On-Campus

We are strongly encouraging all students to stay on campus during the term break. If you must travel, please see the section below on Travel Requirements. For the students staying on campus:

- Dining Services will provide brunch and dinner daily.
- Surveillance testing will continue over break.
- Visitors may come to campus as long as the visits are held outside.
- Students are allowed to work off-campus.
- Continue to avoid crowded spaces as you have all semester.
- No visitors in the residence halls.
- No parties will be permitted.
- Preview the **BREAK-Fest** activities.

Travel Requirements

In this case, travel is defined as spending the night off-campus. If you **must** travel for more than 24 hours between April 12th – 19th, you will be required to comply with the steps below:

- Complete the **Travel Form**.
- Agree to COVID testing on Monday, April 19th.
- Complete a second COVID-19 Friday, April 23rd.
- Total cost to the student for testing is \$85.00 which can be billed to insurance or to your student bill.

NOTE: Card access will be turned off for any student leaving campus for more than 24 hours.

Refunds

If a student goes home and decides not to return and/or attend the three-week session virtually, there will be no refunds since in-person classes and meals will continue to be offered.

3-WEEK SESSION

The three-week session will begin on Monday April 19th and end Wednesday, May 12th. While the session begins two days earlier, students will be given two “break” days during the session with no classes scheduled on those days. Each professor will indicate in the class syllabus which two days during the term will be “break” days.

COMMENCEMENT

We are excited to share with you that Hiram College plans to host in-person commencement ceremonies for both the Class of 2021 and Class of 2020 this spring. Although details are still being finalized, please mark your calendars.

Class of 2021 graduates are invited to a commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 15th. Due to the cancellation of Alumni Weekend, when we had originally planned to hold the Class of 2020 commencement, a ceremony for the Class of 2020 will be held on Sunday, May 16th. Both ceremonies will begin at 2 p.m. on their respective days in the College’s Martin Field House.

In light of the current guidelines and restrictions, the ceremonies will look different this year. All attendees—including graduates, guests, and college officials—will be required to wear face coverings and maintain social distance. **Only** the graduating students and college officials will be permitted inside the Field House for the ceremony. Each graduate will be allowed to invite two guests to view the ceremony, shown via livestream, on the video scoreboard located at the College’s Charles A. Henry Field. Graduates will specify their guests when they complete the form required to participate in the graduation ceremony.

In order to comply with gathering protocols, the College has also made the decision to omit a faculty procession; however, each School will be represented by a single faculty member. The ceremonies will be livestreamed on hiram.edu to provide additional access for those unable to attend in person. The commencement program booklet will be available in a digital format for those interested.

Additional Commencement activities for the Class of 2021 include an induction ceremony for students named to Phi Beta Kappa and a pinning ceremony for graduating nursing students. Only graduates will be permitted to attend those events. Further details will be announced soon. A decision has not yet been made for baccalaureate service; however, interested students should contact Rev. Chris McCreight at McCreightCJ@hiram.edu.

Additional details regarding commencement and a detailed breakdown of the schedule will be forthcoming. You can keep up with the latest developments regarding these year’s commencement ceremonies at hiram.edu/commencement.

Important Dates to Know	
April 9	End of 12-week session
April 12-14	Final Exams
April 15-18	Term Break
April 19	3-week session begins
May 11	End of 3-week session
May 12	Final Exams
May 15	Class of 2021 Commencement
May 16	Class of 2020 Commencement

David P. Haney (he/him/his)
President