

Young Harris College — Spring 2021 Modifications Plan

approved by President Van Horn 11/10/2020

Young Harris College has implemented the following modifications to its spring 2021 instructional plans in light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The plan is informed by and complies with current best practice recommendations, Gov. Kemp's executive orders, and updated guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. As this situation is fluid and developments occur daily, the College reserves the right to change its plans at any time; any changes will be communicated to the campus community immediately. Nothing in this document is intended to form a guarantee or a legal contract between any individual and the College.

Academic Calendar

Classes will begin and end as scheduled, with classes beginning on campus on Monday, January 11, with final exams concluding on Wednesday, May 5. As usual, the College will observe MLK Day on January 18 and Good Friday on April 2. To reduce opportunities for viral transmission resulting from travel, Spring Break will be shortened to two days, March 8-9. The three days lost will be redistributed to April 1 (resulting in a four-day break at Easter), April 23, and April 28. On-campus classes will end for non-graduating students on April 22, with non-graduating residential students moving out of housing on April 23. The last two days of classes, April 26-27, will take place online for these students, as will exams. Graduating seniors will finish the semester and take their final exams on campus, as will some non-graduating students with on-campus responsibilities, such as resident assistants and those who support Commencement. Two Commencement ceremonies, one for the Class of 2021 and the other for the Class of 2020, which had to be postponed, will take place on Saturday, May 8.

Phased Return to Classroom Instruction

To minimize risk and enhance the safety and well-being of students and employees, the College will organize the spring 2021 semester in three phases. *Note that these phases are not identical to those implemented in the fall 2020 semester.* The College expects to proceed through these phases in order, but decisions about phases will be made based on continuously changing information and conditions.

Phase 1

Phase 1 will last at least two weeks, from Monday, January 11, through Friday, January 22 or later. This phase may be extended as warranted by changing conditions. During Phase 1, the following restrictions will be in place:

- All students, employees, contract workers, and authorized visitors to campus must wear cloth face coverings at all times while indoors, including in class meetings, and while outdoors when within 6 feet of any other individual, with the following exceptions. Employees may remove their face coverings while alone in an office. Students may remove their face coverings when alone in a closed study space (but not in any open study spaces). Residential students and staff may remove their face coverings when in

their assigned residential spaces provided no visitors are present or while in the bathroom or shower.

- Instructors are required to dismiss students from class and mark them absent if they do not wear cloth face coverings as required. A student whose face covering inadvertently slips below the nose will be cautioned to pull it up at least once prior to dismissal.
- Class de-densification efforts will continue as in the fall. Course sections will be limited to half the normal capacity of their assigned instructional spaces. Classes with higher enrollment will be moved to larger spaces, such as Wilson, Hatcher, or the Org Loft, or will be organized as alternating subsections with in-person instruction supplemented by synchronous or asynchronous distance learning.
- Students and instructors will be required to maintain at least 6 feet between themselves and others in instructional spaces.
- All visitors to campus must be pre-approved by the appropriate senior administrator and must successfully complete a coronavirus screening as soon as they arrive.
- Large music ensembles will meet as sectionals only.
- Faculty members may use videoconferencing or other alternatives for office hours at their discretion. If a faculty member meets with a student in his/her office, both the faculty member and the student must wear a cloth face covering.
- Individuals who demonstrate any symptoms associated with COVID-19 will be required to report them immediately. Students can refer to the Student Isolation and Quarantine Protocols for more information. Employees can refer to the Employee Return to Work Plan.
- Instructors of courses scheduled to meet on campus may request an exemption and be allowed to teach via distance learning if they are age 65+ or can provide appropriate documentation of an underlying medical condition that puts them at increased risk of severe illness from the virus that causes COVID-19, according to the latest guidance from the CDC. Exemption requests, accompanied by appropriate documentation, must be submitted in writing to the Provost and communicated to the instructor's department chair and division dean.

Phase 2

Phase 2 will last at least two weeks, beginning as soon as Phase 1 concludes (i.e., Monday, January 25, or later). This phase may be extended as warranted by changing conditions. During Phase 2, all restrictions established in Phase 1 will remain in place with the exception that distance learning exemptions for instructors will end, and all courses scheduled to meet on campus will continue in-person.

Phase 3

Phase 3 will begin as soon as Phase 2 concludes (i.e., Monday, February 8 or later). This phase represents the closest the College community expects to get to "normalcy" this spring and assumes that cases of COVID-19 on campus and in the surrounding community are non-existent or isolated, and that vaccines or other treatments exist that significantly reduce transmission and/or severity. During Phase 3, the following restrictions will be in place:

- Cloth face coverings will become optional. Individuals will be required to maintain at least 6 feet between themselves and any other individual wearing a face covering.
- Classroom de-densification efforts will cease. Hatcher and the Org Loft will no longer be used as instructional spaces, and course sections temporarily relocated there will return to their regular classrooms.
- Restrictions on visitors to campus will be lifted.
- Large music ensembles will meet regularly.
- Faculty members will hold office hours in their offices.
- Individuals who demonstrate any symptoms associated with COVID-19 will continue to be required to report them and take required actions as in Phase 1 and Phase 2.

Individuals in Isolation or Quarantine

Instructors in quarantine will continue to teach their courses via distance learning, as will instructors in isolation as their symptoms permit. Instructors in isolation or quarantine must communicate their specific plans with their students, their department chair, and their division dean.

Students in quarantine will continue in their courses via distance learning, as will students in isolation as their symptoms permit. Instructors will be informed that a student is in isolation or quarantine by the Office of Academic Affairs, and all absences resulting from being in either protocol will be excused.

Young Harris Early College

Dual enrollment students and instructors involved with classes offered off campus through Young Harris Early College will be subject to the rules of the partner school system. Any questions should be directed to the Office of Academic Affairs.

Academic Calendar, Spring 2021 — MODIFIED

January						
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31						
February						
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28						
March						
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May						
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30	31					

MLK Day: 1/18

Break Days: 2/2, 2/18, 3/8, 3/24, 4/16

Good Friday: 4/2

NB: All FR-JR depart campus after classes end 4/23, classes 4/26-28 & all exams online except for SRs.