

Rizza, Salvatore A.

From: Families <families-bounces@lists.southernct.edu> on behalf of Rizza, Salvatore A. <rizzas1@southernct.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 2:06 PM
To: families@lists.southernct.edu
Subject: [Families] Parent/Family Update: : January 12- Spring 2021 Reopening Update
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

Dear Parents and Families,

Happy New Year!

In two weeks, we will begin the Spring 2021 semester. Below you will find two emails that were sent to students regarding reopening for next semester. As your students continue to prepare for next semester, please encourage them to check their email frequently for important updates.

Now is a great time for students to create a success plan! If they are interested in working with someone to help them create such a plan, they can reach out to the Academic Success Center and meet with an Academic Coach. For more information, visit <https://inside.southernct.edu/academic-success-center/academic-success-coaching> . Please know that appointments are limited until classes begin.

While my office is happy to answer any questions and assist, we encourage students to connect directly to the offices that may best be able to provide them with support. Many offices are operating remotely but we remain available. For a list of important resources, visit <https://inside.southernct.edu/parent-family/helpful-links> .

The start of a new year holds so much promise and we wish the best for you and your students!

Sincerely,

Sal Rizza
Southern Connecticut State University
Director of Orientation, Transition & Family Engagement
Phone: (203) 392-5189
NODA Region IX Regional Coordinator

Message from Dr. Tyree, Vice President of Student Affairs

Happy New Year, Southern Students!

We hope that you have had time for rest and rejuvenation during your winter break. For those enrolled in winter term classes, we hope they are going well!

Due to the post-holiday surge of coronavirus cases in the state, the on-campus start of the spring semester will be delayed until Monday, February 1. Classes will begin as scheduled on January 26, but they will be fully virtual until the following week.

All campus programs and services will be offered virtually during the week of January 26. We will also have our traditional Week of Welcome (WOW), with virtual programs throughout the week. Campus offices such as Residence Life, Student Accounts, Financial Aid and Scholarships, the Registrar and University Card Office, which students frequent at the beginning of the semester will be available through online services, including Live Chat. Additionally, all the areas that support your learning, including Buley Library, the Disability Resource Center, the Academic Success Center and Counseling Services, will also be available virtually.

Please be on the lookout for a separate communication from the University Bookstore that will let you know options for ordering books. We want to ensure you have your course materials before the semester begins.

If you have concerns about access to a safe and productive learning environment, we will again open the Adanti Student Center computer lab and meeting rooms for learning and studying, following all COVID-19 health protocols. More details will be available in the coming days.

Most campus jobs for students will not resume until February 1. If there is a need for you to work virtually or to come to campus as a part of an essential crew before February 1, your supervisor will contact you.

Following this email, residential students will receive more in-depth information from Residence Life about your return to the residence halls.

We do anticipate new testing protocols for commuter students. All students who will be coming to campus during the week of February 1 are encouraged to receive a negative test before arrival. In the coming days, we will be sharing additional testing requirements and options for commuter students who will regularly be visiting campus.

Please note, we remain highly attentive to the transmission of the coronavirus in Connecticut. We are optimistic about the rollout of vaccines but know that it will take several months before this leads to changes in our behaviors, such as mask wearing and social distancing. We are also paying close attention to the new variations of the virus that are more contagious. As such, we will remain vigilant in our attention to campus health and safety. We ask that all students who will be coming to campus for any reason significantly limit interactions with individuals outside of your household before you return to campus.

Southern is a wonderful place and I am proud of how we pulled together for a successful fall semester. I have every confidence that we can do this again for the spring.

Our Reopening 2021 website will be updated and available shortly, linked from the university homepage: www.southernct.edu If you have additional questions about the opening of the spring semester, please submit them [here](#). For questions about the coronavirus or our health and safety protocols, please reach out to the COVID coordinator at covid-19coordinator@southernct.edu and we will respond to you as quickly as possible.

We look forward to welcoming you to campus for a safe, productive, and enjoyable spring semester!

Most sincerely,
Tracy Tyree
Vice President for Student Affairs

Message from Rob DeMezzo, Director of Housing regarding Residence Life Return to Campus

Happy New Year! We are so excited for your return to campus for the spring 2021 semester! We know that you have been anxiously awaiting details from us, and we appreciate your patience. At this time, students will be allowed to move in between **January 23 and January 24**. As in the past, you will need to sign up for a time slot to ensure adequate spacing of residents in elevators and common spaces.

Your room assignment for the Spring 2021 semester: Hall : ____ Room : ____

COVID Testing / Quarantine

In an effort to make the repopulation of our residence halls as safe as possible and ensure a healthy semester, all students living on campus will be required to: (1) submit a negative test prior to arrival, (2) participate in COVID testing upon arrival, (3) quarantine in their residence halls for seven days upon arrival, (4) participate in COVID testing during quarantine, and (5) be tested on a weekly basis throughout the semester. The testing sequence will consist of the following:

- Pre-Arrival Testing – All residential students must submit to health services a negative COVID PCR test administered within seven days of arrival. Health services will send a separate communication with instructions on how to complete this upload.
- Arrival Testing – All residential students will be tested by the university on arrival to the residence halls.
- Quarantine Testing – All residential students will be tested by the University on day 5 of the quarantine. Students will need a negative test to be removed from quarantine.
- Weekly testing – All residential students will participate in weekly testing throughout the semester.

Quarantine will take place in your spring housing assignment. You will be expected to remain in your residence hall and follow all COVID-19 health and safety protocols. Food will be available for pick-up from Connecticut Hall. Classes will begin virtually on January 26, with scheduled on-ground classes beginning February 1. Students are encouraged to have all the essentials on hand that you will need during this period of quarantine.

We recognize that this may pose an inconvenience for students and appreciate your cooperation as we continue to act out of an abundance of caution to ensure the safety of our residential community.

OUT-OF-STATE RESIDENTS

Out-of-state residents will not need to arrive early to quarantine, unlike last fall. The procedures outlined above apply to all residential students. You will need to complete the State of Connecticut [Travel Health Form](#) upon arrival.

LATE ARRIVALS

We strongly encourage all residents to arrive within the January 23-24 timeframe. If you are unable to return to campus during this window, **you will not be permitted to return directly to your spring residence hall assignment**. Instead, you will be required to quarantine in Neff Hall and will have **NO access** to your spring housing assignment or any belongings left in your room until you have completed your quarantine and testing sequence.

Late Arrivals must be coordinated with the Office of Residence Life and will only be allowed on days in which testing is available on campus. To discuss and make arrangements for arrival after January 24, please contact the Office of Residence Life at reslife@southernct.edu. Please don't show up at your residence hall without prior notification.

We have been actively preparing the residence halls for your return and are committed to maintaining the best residential college experience while also taking every precaution to keep you safe in the continuing COVID climate. Social distancing, surveillance testing, contact tracing, and related precautions will remain in place throughout the semester.

Please stay tuned for additional information in the coming days. Instructions will be forthcoming on how to sign up for a date and time for move-in. We will also be providing additional details on the testing requirements and protocols. We hope you are able to relax and enjoy the duration of your winter break. We will see you soon!

Sincerely,

Robert DeMezzo

Director of Residence Life

Resources

We would also like to provide a number of links which have really good information that answers many of the questions you may have.

Helpful Links- <https://inside.southernct.edu/parent-family/helpful-links> , these are a number of helpful links that we have gathered specifically for parents/families that will be helpful now and in the future.

Resources- <https://inside.southernct.edu/inside-southern>, these is another general page filled with links that may be helpful!

Fall 2020 Reopening- <https://inside.southernct.edu/reopening>, this provides information on the reopening of campus for the fall semester.

Residence Life- <https://inside.southernct.edu/residence-life>, with so many questions regarding residence life, this may be a great place to find information!

Advising- <https://inside.southernct.edu/advising>, information regarding academic advising.
