

## ***COVID-19 management: Fall Semester 2020 -2021 Final Exams & Teaching in Spring Semester 2020 - 2021***

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Dear students and colleagues,

I hope you are staying safe and healthy through this challenging time, which is definitely different from what we were used to as teachers and students, we turned to digital – distance teaching, we are finding new ways to communicate and keep in touch, discovering new methods to acquire new knowledges, to develop competencies and prepare for the future. Therefore, this crisis is also an opportunity to exercise with dealing with the uncertainty of the future, which is an unescapable part of life.

We are lucky we have had the opportunity to meet each other, at the beginning of the Fall Semester 2020 -2021, especially for the newcomers, who were able to meet their fellow students and teachers, to explore the campus and live – at least for a little while – the student experience as we all know it.

The circumstances and evolvement of the pandemic led us to digital learning once more for securing the safety and health of the community and today the Senate met to discuss and decide regarding the examination method for the current semester, as well as teaching and evaluation methods for the Spring Semester 2020 – 2021. The following decisions were taken:

### ***Final Examinations Fall Semester 2020 – 2021***

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Final examinations for the Fall Semester 2020 – 2021 will be held online, except in the case where the instructor submits a request for conducting the exams with physical presence duly substantiated to the Vice Rector for Academic Affairs. In this case and upon approval of the request, the instructor should make special arrangements for students who cannot attend due to specific circumstances (e.g. decrees that are in place not permitting movement through cities, students that are unable to travel due to decrees in another country where they now stay, cases that are in self-isolation or quarantine due to the pandemic), and students should timely submit to their instructor evidence of their inability to physically attend the examination.

### ***Teaching in Spring Semester 2020 - 2021***

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As the pandemic is expected to continue impacting our lives the months to follow, it was decided that teaching will be conducted remotely for the Spring Semester 2020 – 2021. This does not apply for laboratory/ clinical courses and internships where attendance is prerequisite for the efficiency and effectiveness of teaching.

The Health and Safety Service will be alert for complying with the hygiene and distancing protocols for preventing the risk of spreading the disease.

### ***Midterms –Final Exams Spring Semester 2020 - 2021***

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Decisions regarding the examination methodology for the Spring Semester 2020 -2021 will be taken at a later stage evaluating the pandemic evolvement.

Dear members of the university community,

Our main concern is your safety and health. We also wish to aid in the management of the pandemic, through our behavior/ culture as a community and via our overall contribution as university with impact, providing our recommendations to the government and the general public.

Conducting the exams with safety and safeguarding their credibility is a priority.

Dear Students,

I wish you all the success during the examination period. Find the inner empowerment and confidence you need to thrive, study with dedication and love for the path you chose.

We will overcome this crisis. It is a challenge which reminds us that the answers to societal crises are developed in research institutions and universities. The ideas and novelties born in universities -through trial and error- are the solutions and drivers for future developments for the benefit of the humanity. This is the role and the purpose of universities and you, as teachers, researchers, students and future alumni contribute towards this direction.

Warm regards,

Professor Tasos Christofides,  
Rector