

AUGUST 2020

THE COLLEGE OF IDAHO FALL RE-OPENING PLAN



From the moment we moved to online/distance learning on March 13, it has been our goal to return to what we do best at The College of Idaho – in-person classes in a residential setting. We have also said that we will do this only when we were reasonably confident that it could be done safely. Our COVID-19 Task Forces have developed a “Phased” approach (see Phases below) to help us determine where we are from a health and safety standpoint and what each phase means for our campus community.

At this point, we have determined we are at Phase 2. What does this mean?

1. We will begin classes as previously scheduled on August 19 and the majority of classes will be taught exclusively online in a distance learning format. We will be working diligently within this model to build relationships and community. A small hybrid cohort of mixed online and in-person courses will be offered for qualified domestic and international freshmen with a residency requirement. We know that having a mentor and two good friends is critical to success in college and life. These relationships are a hallmark of the college experience and we are committed to building and sustaining them even as we are online.
2. We will open our residence hall for some students to live on campus. This is an elective option for students and to be determined based on prioritized needs. Students living on campus will be subject to the [YotePact](#), a social compact that establishes behavioral requirements for living and working on campus.

The elective, on-campus residence option is an important response for some of our students’ needs. Some of them do not have access to computers or reliable internet unless they are on campus. Others may be unable to travel home due to visa complications or COVID-19 outbreaks in the area in which they live. For those students, applying to live on campus provides the best option. At the same time, we recognize that some students have compromised health situations (either for themselves or others they are close to), or are not comfortable returning to campus at this time. For those students, staying at home is now a viable option.

Should we move to Phase 3, we will move to a hybrid model in which students living on campus will have the opportunity to attend some classes in-person. However, students will still be able to learn remotely.

All first-year students, new transfer students, and returning students who are already assigned to housing are asked to go [to this link](#) to indicate their need or desire to live on campus. Students should submit their preference no later than **5:00 pm on Friday, August 7**.

We know that the past four months have been filled with challenges and, unfortunately, the next several months will likely see many of them continue. We appreciate everyone’s understanding as we try to make healthy, safe choices for our students, faculty, and staff.

Doug Brigham '87 and Jim Everett
Co-Presidents

PHASES OF RE-OPENING

PHASE ONE

DISTANCE LEARNING, ESSENTIAL RESIDENTIAL.

All courses are taught online, most in a synchronous manner, and only students who are unable to return home remain in the campus residence halls. **This is the phase we have been in since March 13, 2020.**

PHASE TWO

DISTANCE LEARNING, OPTIONAL RESIDENTIAL.

A majority of courses continue to be taught online. Students have the option to apply to live on campus, or they can choose to live at home. No in-person extra-curricular activities will be offered. **This is the phase in which we plan to begin on August 19.**

PHASE THREE

DISTANCE LEARNING AND SOME HYBRID INSTRUCTION, OPTIONAL RESIDENTIAL, AND LIMITED IN-PERSON ACTIVITIES.

Some hybrid (combined distance and in-person) class sessions, labs, field work, library and gym access, club activities, residence hall gatherings, art/theatre/music rehearsals, and athletic conditioning and practices are permitted when participants are able to wear masks and maintain physical distancing. Online offerings will remain in place for those not able to return to campus. **A transition to this phase will be considered in September based on assessment of campus and local community conditions.**

PHASE FOUR

DISTANCE LEARNING AND SOME HYBRID INSTRUCTION, OPTIONAL RESIDENTIAL, EXPANDED ACTIVITIES, AND LIMITED TRAVEL.

Some hybrid (combined distance and in-person) class sessions. Many curricular and co-curricular activities suspended in earlier phases, such as music and theatre performances, athletic competitions, etc. will be allowed. Limited college-sponsored travel will be available. Online offerings will remain in place for those not able to return to campus. **This phase will be considered in November based on assessment of campus and local community conditions.**

PHASE FIVE

IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION, UNRESTRICTED RESIDENTIAL, EXPANDED ACTIVITIES, AND UNRESTRICTED SAFE TRAVEL.

Courses taught in person, all residents invited back to campus, expanded extra-curricular activities continue, and unrestricted safe travel possible, all with safety precautions in place as needed. **This phase will be considered for the spring semester based on assessment of campus and local community conditions.**

PHASE SIX

RETURN TO NEARLY NORMAL FUNCTION.

The pandemic is contained and the College returns to Pre-COVID-19 operations, having learned some important health and educational lessons that will carry forward in this new normal. A celebration is planned on the quad, physical distancing discouraged, and no masks required. **This phase is to take place when a vaccine is available to our campus community. Health experts tell us that is possible in the spring, but may be in the fall of 2021.**