Re: Covid-19 Updates & Impacts on UBC Summer Academy 2020

Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the University of Delaware decided to move all classes and camps to virtual platforms. For more information and Udel's coronavirus updates visit please visit the University’s website at www.udel.edu.

While we are disappointed we will not be able to host you on campus this summer, UBC agrees with the University's choice to prioritize safety. In order to keep serving you to the best of our ability, UBC is excited to host its first-ever virtual program! UBC's remote Summer Academic Institute will include online classes via Google Classroom as well as live instruction and study hall using Zoom. Each instructor will use Google Classroom for weekly assignments. Instructors and Instructional Assistants will be on Zoom sessions at specific times for each course to facilitate live discussions, working through problem sets, and other activities to ensure students understand the materials.

Students will also still benefit from the mentorship that occurs within RA groups. Each student will have an RA who will reach out to students on a regular basis throughout the summer. RA Group meetings will still occur so students are able to meet other students within the program. The group of RAs will also collectively plan virtual activities for students to participate in throughout the summer in order to build connections.

A detailed calendar will be published in the coming weeks, but for now, here is a small taste of what we’ll be offering:

- Weekly college prep workshops
- Weekly virtual social gatherings
- Weekly "club nights" (just like during in-person summer program, but online!)
- Innovative, engaging, and exciting virtual courses that you can participate in on your own schedule
- Academic project kits and fun care packages mailed directly to your home
- Virtual field trips - college tours, career fairs, museum explorations, and more!
- Exclusive access to online resources designed to keep your brain sharp and get you ready for college
A jump start on college application and scholarship essay writing

Individual mentoring and advising

A Final Awards Ceremony!

**Things to Know**

- Once we are able to go on campus and are able to meet with our T-shirt Company, we will mail you a UBC backpack, T-Shirt, and water bottle. If you need school supplies, please give your name to Ms. T. If you have a change in mailing address, let us know so we can send the supplies to the appropriate place this summer.

- We will mail you an updated student handbook as soon as the university is open for printing. In the meantime we will send you a soft copy of the new student handbook. Make sure you read this thoroughly; it will contain guidelines and expectations for this summer's participation and online etiquette.

- Students will still be in RA groups, your RA will be reaching out to you via email, social media, or phone before the program begins.

**Incentives for the participating this summer:**

A weekly $20 stipend mailed directly to you.

Fall field trips (local) + gift cards (depending on how many sessions and activities you participate in)

If you cannot participate in this summer's virtual program, please notify UBC Director as soon as possible so that we can create an individualized plan for you and your parent/guardian. If you do not participate in some capacity you will not receive a weekly stipend.

**Additional Information on Summer Stipends**

Due to the pandemic, we understand the limited access to a bank in order to cash/deposit stipend money. We will hold on to the stipends until it is safe and possible to go to a bank.

**Connectivity**
In order to ensure every participant has internet access and access to a laptop or computer to participate in the virtual summer institute, please speak with Ms. T, if you have any issues. If you are a UBC student and you need access to a laptop, inform Ms. T immediately.

**Home Internet**

Comcast - Internet Essentials

Internet Essentials is designed to be a wrap-around solution to directly confront every barrier to digital adoption by offering affordable Internet, subsidized computers, and free digital literacy training to eligible low-income families.

Please use the promo code "TRIO2020". The first two months of this service will be free. Afterwards, the monthly rate will be $9.95. However, participants may cancel this service at any time.

**Summer Academic Dates**

This Summer Academic Institute Dates are:

- **Sunday, June 15, 2020** - Virtual Student Orientation
- **Monday, June 16, 2020** - First Day of Classes
- **Friday, July 17, 2020** - Last Day of Classes
- **Thursday, July 16, 2020** - Virtual Closing Celebration for Students, Staff and Families
- **Monday July 22, 2020 to July 24, 2020** - UBC Educational and Cultural trip (ATL)

**Staying Informed**

Parents and students can always reach out to the UBC Directors Dr. France at any point via email [jfrance@udel.edu](mailto:jfrance@udel.edu) or Ms. T at [nafatari@udel.edu](mailto:nafatari@udel.edu)

Thank You.

Sincerely,

Dr. John France  
Program Director

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