

DMS Adapts to COVID-19

This month, to protect its faculty, staff, and students, Lincoln University closed its campus to all non-essential employees. This closure will continue at least through the end of the Spring 2020 semester. In announcing this development, President Allen tasked the faculty and staff to prepare a strategy for delivering remote instruction for the remainder of the semester. All classes were cancelled for a span of about two weeks to allow faculty and staff time to transition their courses to remote instructions. During this time, student housing was closed, with students travelling back home to resume their courses remotely.

The Department of Mathematical Sciences will continue to provide rigorous, high quality instruction for all of our students. During the closure of classes, all department faculty and staff worked tirelessly to develop and test a means to continue delivering course lectures and other material remotely using a combination of Zoom and Moodle, along with some course-specific technology already in place, such as the use of ALEKS in our MAT-101 and MAT-102 courses. This transition was designed with the needs of our students in mind and a commitment to continued accessibility in uncertain situations.

Thanks to the efforts of all department faculty and staff, students can access our remote instruction using only a smartphone with web browser and Zoom app. This will allow those students who do not own a laptop or personal computer to continue to receive a quality education in their mathematics courses. In addition, while course lectures will be given live over Zoom, recordings of these lectures will also be posted on Moodle so that students can view any lectures they missed. This commitment accommodates those students whose schedules no longer fit with their courses due to time zone differences, changes in family or employment situations, or other unforeseen challenges. In addition, students can fully participate in their MAT courses even with only intermittent internet access.

We hope that every member of our Lincoln Community can stay safe during this crisis while still receiving and delivering the strong, liberal arts education that has served our institution throughout its prolific history.