

During these unprecedented times of the rapidly evolving coronavirus disease (COVID-19), GCU recognizes the hardship this has created on many families. The University will do two things to lessen that impact during these challenging times:

- 1) GCU will ensure that ground students will be able to seamlessly transition to an online learning environment and continue their progress toward graduation. We feel very good about where we're at in that transition as those online classes begin today.
- 2) **In the past 48 hours, GCU has come up with a solution that will allow us to provide a housing credit for those students who have moved off campus by the end of the day on Wednesday, March 25.** Unlike most universities, we are close to the end of our semester but will still provide a partial credit. Please click [this link](#) to view the credit being provided for each of the residence halls.

While the university's costs related to housing expenses such as utilities, security and deep cleaning of all residence halls will continue, we are pleased to be able to offer this credit. In addition, **students who received GCU-funded scholarship money for being an on-campus resident will be able to keep their entire scholarship amount even if they have left campus.** GCU's previous announcement for refunds/rollovers of meal plans also remains in effect.

GCU has worked very hard to create a financial model that has allowed us to freeze tuition costs on our Phoenix campus for 12 straight years while at the same time investing \$1.5 billion into our campus with new classrooms, laboratories, research facilities, residence halls and other student amenities. It has resulted in our graduates taking on less debt (an average of \$18,750) than the average at public and private nonprofit universities (\$28,650 according to the latest data from the Institute for College Access and Success).

It's been a blessing for students and families, but it's also been a blessing for GCU as we fulfil our mission to make private Christian education affordable to all socioeconomic classes of Americans. The incredible community atmosphere that has evolved on our campus as a result of that mission is something we are grateful to experience every day.

Of course, no one expected a global coronavirus pandemic to disrupt that sense of community with just four weeks remaining in the spring semester. We want to thank all of our students who have already returned home, ensuring not only their own safety but the safety of their fellow students who are not able to leave campus, as well as the safety of GCU's faculty and staff. Your efforts will help reduce the density of people on campus and help keep our campus community as safe as possible. We recognize that this has been disruptive, but your efforts are greatly appreciated and serve as yet another example of the Christian heart of our students and their families to think of, and to serve, others in a spirit of grace and cooperation that is inspiring.

We don't know how long this coronavirus pandemic will last, or what the future holds, but the University is also offering reduced tuition rates for summer online classes so that students can stay on track or possibly shorten the amount of time necessary to complete their degree. About 95% of our faculty and staff have been set up to work from home during this crisis and are available and ready to answer questions or assist with scheduling of classes. Call your Student Services Counselor for more information.

Our GCU community continues to demonstrate its Christian spirit on a daily basis as we witness our students, faculty and staff deal with this unprecedented event with grace, humility and a spirit of service toward others. We look forward to a strong finish to the last four weeks of this semester and again thank our students, faculty and staff for their extraordinary efforts. GCU will come out of this unique situation stronger than ever and we look forward to that future together.