

We want to thank everyone for their feedback related to the adjustments GCU is making to the fall semester timeline due to COVID-19 conditions in Arizona. With the surge of positive coronavirus cases, hospitalizations and deaths in Arizona during the past 30 days, it is incumbent on the University to become part of the solution that puts our state in a better place.

We also want to ensure our students have the best possible experience once they arrive on campus, and we think we can better accomplish that with the adjusted fall semester timeline. The modified dates will have a significant financial impact on GCU, but in times like these, everyone must make sacrifices for the greater good and the University must do its part.

As stated last week, GCU is also committed to helping students absorb costs related to disruption of campus operations in the fall semester by allocating the University's portion of CARES Act money to its students. More information on that is below.

To help students navigate the adjustments made to the fall semester, the following FAQs have been updated or added to GCU's [COVID-19 information page](#).

Will housing fees be reduced due to the first three weeks being online?

Fall semester housing costs for students living on campus will be reduced pro-rata due to the modifications in move-in dates. Scholarship amounts will stay the same except for those that are tied to on-campus housing. Those calculations also will reflect pro-rata amounts.

[This chart](#) reflects price reductions to housing rates, notwithstanding any related on-campus scholarship adjustments that would reflect pro-rata adjustments as well.

Students also will be able to reduce their meal plan allotments since they will be on campus for a shorter period of time. Students can submit meal plan change requests to their counselor beginning July 24. The deadline for submission is the Friday before a student's face-to-face classes start.

Will students receive any CARES Act money during the fall semester?

GCU expects to be able to provide eligible fall semester ground traditional students approximately \$500 in CARES Act stimulus funds after the semester begins.

GCU was allotted \$22.3 million in CARES Act funds as part of an economic stimulus bill passed by Congress in March 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. GCU has distributed the student portion, which represented 50% of the \$22.3 million allotment, to those spring semester students who were eligible per the stipulations outlined by the Department of Education to reimburse students for disruption to campus operations due to COVID. Universities are permitted to use the remaining 50% (in our case, \$11.175 million) to cover their own expenses related to the COVID-19 pandemic. GCU expects to incur in excess of \$11.175 million in COVID-related losses, but the University will use the institutional portion of the CARES Act funds it has been allocated to directly benefit students as well. That includes the direct grant of approximately \$500 as mentioned above for all eligible fall semester ground traditional students to help them absorb costs related to disruption of campus operations in the fall semester. We expect those checks to be issued in early October after the add/drop period of the semester. Guidance is being finalized by the Department of Education, and more information on this will be provided in the next few weeks.

All fall semester ground traditional students are eligible provided they meet all other federal eligibility requirements and unless otherwise clarified by the Department of Education prior to disbursement. This includes incoming freshmen, transfer students and students who choose to take ground classes in an online format during the fall semester due to the ongoing disruption caused by COVID-19.

International students and DACA students do not qualify for CARES Act funds per the Department of Education because they are not Title IV eligible and are otherwise ineligible under another federal law that prohibits certain non-U.S. citizens from receiving federal public benefits. Accordingly, GCU will be requiring students to demonstrate their eligibility by having a FAFSA on file to qualify for the payment.

How will Move-In occur?

Move-In will occur the week of Sept. 21. To honor this tradition but still adhere to physical distancing requirements, we will institute an Appointment Move-In process and offer the availability of small volunteer teams. Students will receive an email by Aug. 5 instructing them how to select or alter a Move-In appointment that best fits their schedule. Upon arrival, new students will be greeted by a team of 2-3 Student Leaders who will show new residents to their room and help them check in. Per the family's preference, this team is also available to assist with unloading the vehicle and taking the student's belongings to their room.

Students should choose a Move-In appointment that least conflicts with their online class schedule during that week. Online classes during the first three weeks of the semester do count toward your overall grade, but faculty will be understanding during Move-In week to ensure students can complete all necessary assignments.

Will GCU adjust the housing cancellation fee date?

Yes, to give families more time to make a decision, the deadline has been extended from Aug. 1 to Aug. 15.

Can a student start their courses online and decide to move on campus after they see how the semester begins?

Unfortunately, no. The face to face -- or physical component -- of the course has a physical distance requirement that decreases the class size of every section, compared to a non-COVID semester. To maintain safety for faculty and students, we cannot override the number of students in each section. Therefore, students who start online will have to maintain their online request for the semester. Students may request to return to the campus in the Spring 2021 term.

Will students on scholarships still be required to perform the same number of service hours?

Because students will be on campus fewer days during the semester, service hours will be pro-rated accordingly.