WELCOME BACK TO BARTON

The Return to Campus Plan for

STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND STAFF

JULY 1, 2020
Introduction and Guiding Principles

We look forward to the full return of our faculty, staff, and students to campus. Barton will reopen the campus in August for fall 2020 classes and the return of residential students.

Two guiding principles frame our response to COVID-19. Current and future decisions will be shaped by these principles, in concert with federal and state law and guidance from healthcare experts.

- Barton is committed to providing a healthy and safe environment for our campus community to live, learn, and work.

- Barton is resolved to provide excellent education as we effectively meet our mission.
This document outlines Barton’s approach to Fall Semester 2020. As new information and best practices are updated, so too will the guidelines for campus success be refreshed to support students, employees, and guests.

Common Expectations

A common set of expectations, to be embraced and practiced consistently by our students, faculty, and staff, will guide us as we move into the fall semester. Each person’s full commitment to their own well-being, and a selfless effort to maintain the safety and health of others are at the heart of these expectations. College leadership will define the expectations, and, if necessary, modify them. The following list indicates the areas to be covered by the expectations.

Self-care

- Before returning to campus, all students must complete a self-check.
- Thereafter, faculty, staff, and students are expected to self-monitor daily.
- If any member of the Barton community becomes ill, that person must refrain from interaction with others and report potential COVID-like symptoms to Barton healthcare professionals.
- All community members must practice good hygiene.

Greetings and etiquette

- Placing your hand over your heart will stand as the campus customary greeting.
Masks

- Masks are required to be worn in all indoor areas through the end of the fall 2020 semester. (Updated on August 28, 2020)
- Masks are required in indoor classrooms and instructional spaces throughout the semester because those settings may include face-to-face conversations, longer periods of interaction, and enclosed spaces.
- Masks are not required for students while in their residence hall rooms.
- Masks are required in the Culinary Center for students, faculty, staff, and guests. However, the mask may be temporarily removed while one is seated and dining.

Hygiene

- Basic health standards including washing hands, covering coughs, not shaking hands, and not touching one’s face will be considered as part of Barton’s community health standard.

Social distancing

- Public spaces (classrooms, lobbies, the library, the culinary center) will be set up for social distancing, and signs will be posted as a reminder and encouragement to maintain a healthy distance where possible.

Effective social distancing requires that people acknowledge the need and maintain an awareness of positioning in order to help promote consideration of others.

Campus events will also be held with social distancing, as required by the type of event.

Community support

- Training will be provided to uphold these expectations.
- We invite all members of the Barton community to sign and uphold a pledge to adhere to these behavioral standards, as a way of supporting the well-being of the entire Barton community.
**Calendar**

Barton College has made several adjustments to its calendar for fall semester to support health and encourage learning. We will continue to evaluate the calendar and make adjustments as necessary.

**What follows are the key adjustments to the calendar as of July 1, 2020.**

- **July**
  Staff and faculty will transition back to campus by the end of July. The return to campus will be coordinated by each area’s respective Vice President.

- **August**
  Traditional events including athletics, CAB, first-year seminar programming, faculty forums and lectures, and concerts will be assessed by August 1, 2020, and initial guidance determined.
  
  A sequenced return of students to campus, beginning with Orientation Leaders, Residence Hall Assistants, and other early arriving student teams and groups will take place throughout early August. A sequenced arrival of first-year students will take place to accommodate the final Orientation and new student welcome period. Returning students’ arrival will also be sequenced to support social distancing best practices.

  Barton’s 2020 fall semester classes will begin on Monday, August 17, 2020.

- **September**
  Classes will be held on Labor Day.

- **October**
  Fall Break has been removed from the 2020 fall semester to support the accelerated class meeting schedule. Day of Service has also been removed from the calendar.

- **November**
  Classes will meet on campus through Tuesday, November 24, 2020. Thanksgiving Break begins at 10 p.m. on November 24. All residence halls will close on Wednesday, November 25, for the remainder of the semester. Any adjustments to the spring semester calendar will be announced in November.

- **December**
  Final exams for all 2020 fall semester classes will be administered remotely beginning December 2, 2020.
Classes

Formal learning is the lifeblood of any college. At Barton, our commitment is to ensure an excellent learning experience, regardless of the way the class is delivered.

We commit to the following:

• Classroom occupancy will be limited to account for social distancing.
• Masks will be worn in all classes at all times.
• Class locations and instruction may be adjusted to serve student learning, health, or space needs.
• Regardless of adjustments to location, class size, or teaching method, we commit to clear, high, and consistent standards in the classroom, and to providing the support needed for student success.
• The rules for social distancing and health considerations in off-campus learning (internships, etc.) are set by the host site.
• Students will commit to the common behavioral expectations outlined in the Canvas course syllabus.
Food Services

Barton will continue to provide food service on campus, in conjunction with our campus partner AVI.

The following commitments define our approach to food services.

• The Culinary Center will continue to provide food service to students, staff, and faculty.

• AVI will sanitize the Culinary Center between meals, and will close one night each weekend for a deep cleaning.

• Social distancing will be practiced in the Culinary Center, as indicated by the College’s expectations and posted signs.

• Food will be served to students in single-use containers.

• Other food service, including catering, will follow the same single-use protocol.

Campus Events

The Barton Experience relies not just on in-class activities but also on a vibrant campus life. We will adjust the outside-of-class experience to support health and deepen learning. This means that most events will be different than in the past.

The following considerations will shape our approach to events.

• The number of individuals who may participate in campus events will be determined by state and federal occupancy requirements during the given semester. Campus staff and faculty will help adhere to these limitations by monitoring and controlling access to events.

• Traditional events including athletics, CAB, first-year seminar programming, faculty forums and lectures, and concerts will be assessed on August 1, 2020, and initial guidance determined. Adjustments to campus programming access will be made on a month-by-month basis and adjustments made as circumstances dictate. Campus activity status will be posted on the website by the first of each month.

• Food at public events may be restricted/limited.
Athletics

At Barton College, athletics make up a key part of the student experience. Our aim is to ensure that student-athletes can participate in their sports safely, while continuing to be successful in the classroom.

To those ends:

• Athletics will provide specific guidance per team to ensure safety and minimize risks.
• Athletic training and practices will be adjusted to support social distancing.
• When travelling for competition, student-athletes are expected to adhere to the health and safety rules of Barton and the host institution.
• Spectators are expected to comply with clearly stated expectations at competitions.

• Events and meetings will be adjusted to support campus well-being. Program leaders will provide guidance regarding nuanced offerings, limited capacity, and social distancing requirements. An institutional event calendar will also be provided online for all major events and will detail event wellness adjustments and social distancing instructions.
• Campus activities (social, educational, cultural, and educational) will continue as able with social distancing considerations. Students, faculty, and staff are equally encouraged to practice social distancing in outside social and community settings.
• When possible, campus groups are encouraged to use videoconferencing and other technology as a productive way to communicate to large numbers of people.
Campus Guests

Barton will continue to welcome guests to campus.

- Guests are expected to adopt and follow all recommendations of the College, including those on mask use, social distancing, hygiene, etc.
- Visiting student athletes and fans are expected to follow any additional guidelines adopted by the Athletics Department.
- Barton reserves the right to limit certain guest behaviors, including overnight stays, if we believe it is necessary.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

Barton commits to a cleaning regimen that promotes health with minimal disruptions to campus activities. Students, staff, and faculty will assist in maintaining the cleanliness of campus on a day-to-day basis.

- Students and faculty will clean their respective classroom areas in preparation for class.
- Accelerated cleaning protocols will be put into place for common, high traffic areas, increasing the number of times each day these areas are cleaned.
- Residence Hall bathroom cleaning will be doubled, providing focus on high-touch areas. Additional cleaning and disinfecting supplies will be available for student use as desired.
- Automatic door openers or foot pulls will be installed in high traffic areas.
Health

Barton aims to help provide students, staff, and faculty the resources they need to stay healthy, and to support any community member who falls ill. We expect that, in turn, community members will monitor their own health and act in ways that help others do the same.

• Essential items such as a mask and thermometer will be distributed to each member of the campus community to support self-monitoring and selfcare.

• Campus healthcare professionals will take the lead on any testing and quarantine protocol deemed necessary. Should positive tests occur, individuals will be quarantined, and appropriate tracing and self-isolation/monitoring will be maintained. The Dean of Student Life, in concert with the Provost’s Office, and campus healthcare professionals will take the lead on tracing responsibilities.

• Focused health and safety initiatives will be promoted through the Student Health Center.

• Campus-wide training will be held to further educate our campus community about individual and shared healthcare responsibilities.
Accommodations

• We realize the needs of individuals may differ from those of our collective community. Should anyone need a special accommodation for an underlying medical condition, we will work to assist in meeting that need where possible. Students with an accommodation request should contact our student coordinator (252.399.6496), and employees, our HR Department (252.399.6330).

• Accommodations for special circumstances and COVID health concerns will be reviewed and addressed by campus healthcare professionals, in concert with the respective senior staff leader and supervisor.