

In This Issue

Webmail users [click here](#)

COVID-19 Update

- [Furlough FAQ](#)

Official News/General Announcements

- [Cap & Gown Ordering](#)
- [TIAA Consultant & Virtual Counseling Sessions](#)
- [Performance Review Training](#)
- [Telemedicine with Univera](#)
- [Online Tai Chi Class via Zoom](#)
- [BFA and MFA Artwork Online](#)

What's Happening?

[More Events...](#)

TODAY	TOMORROW	THURSDAY
3:00 Town Hall Tuesdays		

Furlough FAQ

Furlough FAQ's:

What is the difference between a furlough and a layoff?

A furlough is a temporary, unpaid, leave of absence caused by a lack of available work. Furloughs are typically for a shorter fixed period and the furloughed person remains an employee and continues many benefits until they are recalled and returned to work.

A layoff occurs when an employee is separated from employment because there is no work available and there is no guarantee that the University will re-employ them later.

How long will the furlough last?

At this time, we do not know how long this emergency will last. The University must have available work for the furloughed employee and must comply with all State and Federal regulations regarding reopening before the furloughed can be recalled.

If I'm furloughed what happens to my benefits?

Alfred University has chosen to continue benefits for all employees who will be affected by the furlough. This means that your benefits will remain in place for the duration that you are out uninterrupted.

How am I going to pay for my benefits?

While you are furloughed, you will be placed on leave without pay but with benefits in Banner. This will allow HR to capture an arrears amount for all benefits that you normally pay. Once you are back to work HR will work with you to collect the back premiums and they will be deducted from your pay over a period of time.

What if I do not want to do that and just want to write the University a check to cover my benefits?

When your deductions process through payroll they are deducted before taxes (pre-tax), lowering your taxable income for the year and allowing you to pay less income taxes. If you write a check outside of payroll those deductions will be paid after tax and you will not get the pre-tax advantage.

If you still wish to write a check for your benefits while on furlough please contact Kayleigh Jones misner@alfred.edu or Kim Wyant wyant@alfred.edu for guidance.

What happens to my paid time off banks and do I have to use that time before being furloughed?

Alfred University is not allowing employees to use any accrued time in lieu of being furloughed. Your paid time off banks (vacation, personal and floating holiday) will remain in place; however, your banks will stop growing until you return to work.

What is the maximum amount of time that unemployment benefits are available?

Due to the CARES Act unemployment benefits have been extended an additional 13 weeks to be added to the normal 26 weeks (39 total weeks). There is also an additional Federal benefit of \$600/week until 7/31/2020 for anyone who is claiming unemployment due to a COVID-19 shut down. At this time, we do not know if this additional benefit will be extended.

Attachment: [Printable Version](#)

Submitted by: Kayleigh Jones

[back to top](#)

Cap & Gown Ordering

You can order your cap & gown for December commencement. For commencement, you must wear cap, gown, tassel AND hood. You can purchase as a complete package or individual pieces. It can ship directly to your home. Any questions, please email bradlemk@alfred.edu

Link: alfreduniversity.shopoakhalli.com

Submitted by: Marcy Bradley

[back to top](#)

TIAA Consultant & Virtual Counseling Sessions

A TIAA consultant will be conducting virtual retirement counseling sessions on Tuesday May 26, Tuesday, June 16, Tuesday, June 30, Thursday, July 9, and Friday, July 24. No matter where you are in life - just getting started or planning for retirement - a session can help you create a plan for your goals; and it is at no additional cost as a part of your retirement plan. To register for one of the sessions, employees should call TIAA at 1.800.732.8353 and remain on the line for assistance; or register at www.TIAA.org/schedulenow.

Submitted by: Kim Wyant

[back to top](#)

Performance Review Training

This is the ninth training in a 9 month series targeted at any AU employee who has supervisory roles in their department. This training can also be especially helpful for any staff who support the supervisors in their department.

This training will encompass: how to provide feedback, establish goals and objectives, preparing the evaluation, how to approach the meeting, and why performance reviews matter

Supervisors who may be new in their rolls or need a refresher are encouraged to come.

This training will be held on May 4, 2020 from 11:15am-12:00pm by following this link <https://teams.microsoft.c...>

and on May 21, 2020 from 11:15am-12:00pm by following this link <https://teams.microsoft.c...>

Submitted by: Kayleigh Jones

[back to top](#)

Telemedicine with Univera

For any employee with active Univera coverage you can take advantage of Telemedicine at no cost to you as the subscriber.

Please see the attached flyer for how to sign up for Telemedicine so you can still visit the doctor without having to actually visit the office.

Attachment: [Telemed Flyer](#)

Submitted by: Kayleigh Jones

[back to top](#)

Online Tai Chi Class via Zoom

Join our online Tai Chi Class every Tuesday and Friday, 9:30 am - 10:30 am via Zoom. The Alfred Tai Chi Group's daily practice was suspended temporarily due to the coronavirus. We have now set up a new way for people to exercise together on Zoom!

Specifically, we will be practicing Qigong, 24-form Tai Chi and Taiyi Swimming Dragon under the instruction of a Confucius Institute teacher and videos. No experience is needed, we welcome beginners! If you have any questions, feel free to contact Jialin Fang at fangj@alfred.edu.

Here is the Zoom meeting link and ID below:

Meeting Link: <https://alfredu.zoom.us/j...>

Meeting ID: 6250338420

Link: <https://alfredu.zoom.us/j/6250338420>

Submitted by: Confucius Institute at Alfred University

[back to top](#)

BFA and MFA Artwork Online

Alfred University's School of Art & Design at the New York State College of Ceramics is pleased to present a website featuring the work of the 2020 Bachelor of Fine Arts and Master of Fine Arts degree candidates.

Both BFA and MFA exhibitions, are an important way in which Alfred University celebrates the achievements of our students. There is something incredibly special about transforming the campus buildings every April and May to present capstone achievements within the buildings in which they were made. But we belong to a new reality. This year, amidst the COVID-19 crisis, physical exhibitions could not happen.

We celebrate the accomplishments of our graduates differently this year. Our Seniors and graduate

students partnered with faculty and staff to pivot these presentations to an online platform. Their insight and critique helped to produce the first year of many, online presentations of thesis work. While the in-person experience of walking through the exhibitions cannot be replaced, supplemental online presentations will give access to those outside this valley, and for years to come.

Work made for these exhibitions has been finished to the degree possible, photographed and presented virtually through this dedicated website. The images represent the culmination of these students' intensive training and study in studio art practices. Despite unprecedented circumstances, these students are realizing their degree exhibitions and we are honored to share their efforts.

Our School of Art & Design began as the New York State College of Clayworking in 1900. Never have we had to close our doors to our students, and never have our students had to face the challenge of mounting a thesis exhibition without studio to finish work or gallery to exhibit in. To call this a disappointment is a vast understatement and does little to acknowledge all they have invested and envisioned. To the degree possible, exhibitions by the class of 2020 are planned to take place in our galleries in the late fall 2020.

Thesis season in Alfred is beloved, and is a major attraction for art lovers, who are drawn to Alfred for the opportunity to see work by some of the country's most promising young artists. This showcase of work by the candidates for the Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) degree from Alfred University's School of Art & Design represents a diverse number of mediums and genres including ceramics, painting, sculpture, photography, printmaking, video, sonic arts, interactive media, interactive graphic design and drawing. Candidates for Master of Fine Arts (MFA) degrees in Ceramic Art, Sculpture & Dimensional Studies, Painting and Electronic Integrated Arts are presented here as well.

Link: [Thesis Exhibitions](#)

Submitted by: SOAD Events

[back to top](#)