



*Office of the Dean of Students*

To: All Undergraduate, Graduate, and Part-Time Students

From: William H. Johnson, PhD, dean of students

Re: Fall Semester Reminders

As you continue to engage in what we plan to be a productive and rewarding semester, we want to provide you with updates pertaining to the student experience. We know that you have received lots of information from the University in recent weeks. We ask that you make note of the policies and changes which are highlighted in the sections that follow.

### **Student Handbook**

The 2020-21 Student Handbook is available online. It took effect September 1, 2020, and will remain in effect until further notice. The Handbook applies to all students of Fairfield University and information contained therein is intended to serve and be useful for all students. The Handbook is only available online at [www.fairfield.edu/studenthandbook](http://www.fairfield.edu/studenthandbook). In addition to the Student Handbook, the Office of the Dean of Students issued the COVID-19 Student Directives which can also be found on the Student Handbook webpage. *It is important for students to review the Student Handbook webpage periodically as all policies and guidelines are subject to change.*

Also contained on the Student Handbook page are the *Residential Guidelines*. For those students living in University housing, below are a couple of items of note for you to pay particular attention to.

- Tiki torches and other devices producing an open flame are not permitted. Please review the Office of Residence Life Housing Agreement in the Handbook for a list of prohibited items.
- Do not block or obstruct windows or hang your own curtains or window treatments as these create potential fire hazards.

Questions or comments are always welcome and can be directed to the Office of the Dean of Students at 203-254-4211 or [dosooffice@fairfield.edu](mailto:dosooffice@fairfield.edu). Additional information about policies and procedures can be found in the undergraduate and graduate catalogs.

### **Bystander Intervention and Amnesty/Step Up Stags Policy**

The University encourages individuals to seek assistance for themselves or others in order to support the overall health and well-being of our campus community, and the need to address sexual violence, relationship violence, and other forms of sexual harassment. Students are encouraged to report all unsafe incidents including, but not limited to, out of control social gatherings, damage and vandalism, underage alcohol use, disorderly or disruptive conduct, harassment, bias, and sexual misconduct. Reports submitted in good faith or

seeking restoration will not be subject to the student conduct or Title IX process. Exemption from student conduct charges will be provided to the student for whom assistance was sought and any witnesses who were present.

### **Smoke-Free Campus**

In the spring of 2017, Fairfield University was designated as tobacco-free. The use of tobacco and tobacco products was no longer permitted. This policy has been expanded to include a prohibition on smoking of any kind anywhere on our campus through the use of, for example, cigarettes, cigars, pipes, and electronic cigarettes and vaping devices. On-campus cessation programs are available to students. Those seeking to overcome addictions to the use of these devices are strongly encouraged to contact the Student Health Center or Counseling & Psychological Services.

### **Student Safety**

We encourage students to report any suspicious behavior to the Department of Public Safety at 203-254-4090. Take advantage of the LiveSafe app on your phone. It is good practice to keep your room, apartment, and house doors locked to protect you and your valuables.

When using private vehicles (such as cabs, Lyft, or UBER), please take precautionary measures. Check the license plate, driver information, and the make and model before entering the vehicle. Share your location and route with a friend or family member. Please visit <https://www.uber.com/us/en/ride/safety/campus-safety/> and <https://www.lyft.com/rider/safety> for further information.

Additionally, please be sure that you have provided or updated your missing person information via [my.fairfield](https://my.fairfield.edu). One or more individuals may be listed. This information, separate from your emergency contact information, will be used strictly in the event that a student goes missing.

### **Title IX Resources**

Fairfield University is committed to providing a learning environment free of sexual misconduct including unwanted touching, sexual intercourse, sexual harassment, intimate partner violence, and stalking. If you or your friend has experienced some form of sexual misconduct, please contact the director of Title IX and equity compliance, Public Safety, the Student Health Center, Counseling & Psychological Services, and/or the Fairfield Police Department for support and assistance. There are many confidential and non-confidential resources available to you.

A dedicated [webpage](#) is maintained by the University with a complete list of resources and reporting options. Please contact the director of Title IX and equity compliance for additional information.

Megan D. Monahan, JD  
Director of Title IX and Equity Compliance  
Phone: 203-254-4357  
E-mail: [mmonahan@fairfield.edu](mailto:mmonahan@fairfield.edu)

### **Off-Campus Parties and Gatherings**

The beach area known as Lantern Point is a private residential area. The Fairfield Police Department will continue to enforce a zero tolerance policy against public gatherings on the Point. Students who are arrested off campus will not only have to address any charges pending against them through the courts, but will also have to meet with the Office of the Dean of Students to address the matter as a violation of the Student Conduct Code. Our goal is to not have students arrested; therefore, our message is fairly simple: If you live on campus, don't go to the beach area uninvited.

### **Town of Fairfield Emergency and Community Alerts**

Students are encouraged to sign up to receive emergency and community alerts from the Town of Fairfield by texting **FAIRFIELDCT to 888777**. Reply to the confirmation text with your Fairfield zip code. Reply to the text with your e-mail address if you wish to get alerts via e-mail. Follow the link in the reply text and go to [CTALERT.gov](http://CTALERT.gov). Click "Register for Alerts" and create a profile to customize how and when you receive alerts. If you prefer not to text, you may go straight to [CTALERT.gov](http://CTALERT.gov) and click "Register for Alerts."

### **Questions or Concerns**

Students are welcome to contact our office to speak with a member of our staff at any time. Please call the Office of the Dean of Students at 203-254-4211 or e-mail us at [dosoffice@fairfield.edu](mailto:dosoffice@fairfield.edu).

Thank you for your attention to these important updates. We wish you all a safe and successful start to the semester.