August 28, 2020

Dear Student,

Welcome home! The Fall semester is finally here.

John Jay is an amazing institution with so much to offer you as you pursue your dreams. As your Dean of Undergraduate Studies, it is an honor to focus my leadership on supporting your success inside and outside of the classroom. Whether you are a new or continuing student your academic journey is always the priority. While college will look and feel different right now, our faculty, staff, and student leaders have worked hard to develop online learning and community experiences that fully represent our vibrant success culture. We are all on the same page when it comes to the goal of having an incredible year with health and safety in mind. This unified goal speaks volumes about our commitment to you.

This is an extraordinary moment in history to be a student at John Jay. As is clear from our college's mission, we are deeply immersed in the full range of justice matters, whether at the individual, national, or global levels. At the center of the college mission is a curriculum that helps you to engage with justice and equity in its many dimensions. You will develop the necessary foundation to better understand struggles for justice in the US and around the world, their historical context, the science and data behind the pursuit of justice, and the expression of justice in the arts and humanities. In addition to the curriculum, we offer professional and leadership opportunities such as internships, research mentoring, service learning, and student organizations that will deepen your exploration of the issues that matter to you. In doing so, you will learn the skills and habits of mind needed to become an effective advocate for justice. Take advantage! There is an urgent need for the professionals you are all training to become.

As you settle into the new semester, here are some must-do habits for ongoing success at John Jay:

1. Keep connected to your class  
Most professors will use Blackboard to host their courses, post course related materials,
communicate with students, and assign your grades. Check in with your Blackboard course regularly, at least once a day is recommended.

**2. Incorporate academic support**
The college’s academic support centers and the Lloyd Sealy Library have numerous resources and services. Regularly schedule **online tutoring appointments online** with the [Writing Center](https://www.jjay.cuny.edu/writing-center), [Math and Science Resource Center](https://www.jjay.cuny.edu/math-and-science-resource-center), and [Modern Language Center](https://www.jjay.cuny.edu/modern-language-center). Make use of The Lloyd Sealy Library’s online resources including databases with [scholarly articles](https://www.jjay.cuny.edu/library/scholarly-articles), [ebooks](https://www.jjay.cuny.edu/library/ebooks), and [citation guides](https://www.jjay.cuny.edu/library/citation-guides);

**3. Use your John Jay email**
In order to stay informed about your class requirements and other updates, you should plan to **check your John Jay email once per day** until the end of the semester. Blackboard is linked to your John Jay email and it is the email of record for the system.

**4. Plan ahead**
Take advantage of our range of [academic advisement](https://www.jjay.cuny.edu/undergraduate-studies/advisement) and [career planning](https://www.jjay.cuny.edu/undergraduate-studies/career-planning) services. Academic or faculty advisors and career counselors are here to help you. Please schedule an appointment to discuss the next steps to your academic journey. (If you are SEEK, ACE, APPLE Corps, LEAP, CEEEDS, or Honors students contact your program advisors/counselors).

As you are aware, the information about COVID-19 is always changing. To stay up to date with new developments, please refer to and bookmark the [CUNY Continuity Fall 2020](https://www.jjay.cuny.edu/continuity) webpage. The university will keep updating it, should the information about classes, academic policies, and student support ever change.

Lastly, please be **patient with yourself and others** around you. I am sure you will agree that we have all been through a lot in 2020. I continue to be in awe of our ability to show up and achieve together. Should you have questions or need assistance, **please reach out and ask**. Don’t hesitate to write to your instructors, advisors, student leaders, or administrators.

Best,

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