COVID-19 FAQ for Admissions:

Q: Shelter in place keeps being extended, and it is unclear at this point if college dorms can be reopened in time for the fall semester. Are you planning to offer remote lectures for students and as a result drop the cost for board and food?
A: Circumstances are changing almost daily. We are closely monitoring the spread of the coronavirus, listening to the experts, and planning for scenarios that range from welcoming new students to campus in August to delivering orientation and fall classes online. We hope to announce our final plans by the end of May/beginning of June. If, for safety reasons, we cannot offer a residential experience in the fall, we will not assess room and board fees. Please know that whichever scenario we finally adopt, it will be carefully thought through and in the best interests of the students.

Q: Will COVID-19 affect fall move-in?
A: We are closely monitoring the spread of the coronavirus, listening to the experts, and planning for scenarios that range from welcoming students to campus in August to delaying fall move-in until later into the semester. We hope to announce our final plans by the end of May/beginning of June.

Q: How has COVID-19 impacted Goucher’s study abroad program, and plans for the future?
A: Currently, summer and fall 2020 study abroad programs have been canceled due to COVID-19; however, Goucher remains committed to providing an education that celebrates global education. Indeed, the pandemic has reinforced our belief that the critical issues of the 21st century—global warming, migration, access to healthcare, etc.—are global issues that require innovative solutions. These issues transcend national borders, and they can’t be solved by walling ourselves off from the rest of the world. This is why we were the first college in the U.S. to become 100% study abroad and why we believe our approach to providing an interdisciplinary, globally connected education is more important than ever. Even though we are at a point right now where most travel has ceased, boundaries will open, world travel will resume, and once again our students will experience the benefits of studying abroad.

Q: What are Goucher’s plans at this point for next year? Hypothetically, the country could reopen by then but still be dealing with the virus in a very big way. Is it possible for a student to defer acceptance for a year?
A: Goucher is committed to ensuring the health and safety of all its students, faculty, and staff. If Goucher is able to welcome students back to campus in the fall, we also understand that some students and families may feel uncomfortable with starting at that time and are welcome to avail themselves of Goucher’s deferral policy:
https://www.goucher.edu/become/apply/admissions-requirements/deferral-policy.

Q: For Goucher’s online classes, how is the college serving international students, especially given the time differences?
A: Goucher faculty are working to provide asynchronous learning components for international students, as well as students who may be living in other time zones in the U.S.
Q: Is Goucher College considering adjusting tuition to ensure admitted students will continue to be able to afford to go to college?
A: Rather than making a blanket decision to adjust tuition, we are instead working with students and their families on an individual basis. This was true as we planned to have our students return home a month or so ago—each was a unique situation—and will be true again as students return to campus or join us for their first semester. Where cost was an issue, we provided support through our financial aid programs and an emergency fund created by our alumnae/i. Our goal obviously is to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to study at Goucher. The Goucher curriculum is designed to prepare students to be global thinkers, who are more needed now than ever before!

Q: What are the anticipated impacts of the pandemic on the school financial resources, including the endowment with likely lost revenues for the spring semester and possibly longer? Are there anticipated increases in tuition, faculty, and staff layoffs?
A: Goucher College has a substantial endowment and does not rely on it for operational expenses. Additionally, the college has adequate cash reserves to see it through the variables of the next year. The survival of the institution is not threatened. Goucher’s leadership is being proactive and exploring several different scenarios for the future that would allow the institution to deliver its high-quality education and student support services in various ways. While slight tuition increases occur annually among all colleges, we do not plan for it to be more due to COVID-19, especially knowing that many of our families may be struggling financially due to the pandemic.

Q: Is there anything in the CARE package that would apply to a student’s ability to afford to go to college?
A: Yes, Goucher College is very fortunate to receive funds from the CARES Act. This money is being directly given to our students to help them with unexpected financial hardships related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Updated on: May 1, 2020