

Dear Students,

On Monday, March 30, MCAD will begin virtual instruction for all courses for the remainder of the semester. I welcome you back as we embark on this new learning experience together.

MCAD's experienced and talented instructors have been working diligently to move your courses online. Staff and administrators have been working seven days a week to build the college from the ground up as a virtual enterprise. Historically, MCAD has come together in stressful, uncertain times, demonstrating strength to work collaboratively, and I am seeing that again now. Staying engaged and informed, being flexible, and helping each other is how we will get through this together.

Here are some things you can do now to prepare for next week:

1. Check your internet connection.

Remote learning will be easiest with a strong, stable internet connection that supports video conferencing. Several Internet Service Providers are providing options to help people deal with the COVID-19 pandemic. See the [MCAD Knowledge Base: Internet Service Providers for Remote Learning](#).

2. Read the [MCAD Academic Continuity – Learning from Anywhere: A Student Guide](#).

Online Learning has been working overtime to create a guide for students to help you prepare for remote learning. This guide includes videos on common tasks in Blackboard or Canvas, sharing your artwork, how to record video for posting to Blackboard/Canvas, and other resources.

3. Check your MCAD email for a message from your faculty.

Your faculty will be sharing information about your next class meeting. Read communications carefully and follow up if you have questions.

Even though we may not see each other in the hallways, we are still a vibrant community. The learning experience will be different as we move from in-person classes to online. But our commitment to you is the same: we will create enriching learning environments that promote creative experimentation, critical thinking, and skill-development, and this will be preserved.

My best to you,

Karen Wirth