

Dear Faculty, Staff and Students,

As we prepare for our spring graduations, I have been reflecting on the role teachers play in our lives. I can look back with appreciation to the often brilliant teachers that inspired me. They might not have been teaching my favorite subjects, but what I remember the most are the individuals and not their methods or techniques. I often hear Midwestern University students tell me upon graduation that what they will remember most are their professors. I believe all of us are mentors and teachers of our students. It is our respect for the students as they study, take exams and trust this university to support all of their dreams to become a health care professional. From laboratory experiences, to lectures, workshops, research laboratories and clinical experiences, we model and teach through the passion for our professions.

This Evening Update is dedicated to all of our students. Midwestern University is grateful that you have entrusted us, the faculty, staff and administration with your education and career. Whether you are an incoming student, in your first year or final year, we are committed to your education. I have been inspired by the patience shown to the faculty as we moved all of our classes to online education. I remember the phrase, "when life throws you a curveball...hit it!" That is what our faculty and staff have done. It has been amazing. I have seen great creativity, dedication and mentoring through online meetings, posted educational materials and group discussion conference calls. While not ideal, at this time and in the midst of this public health care crisis, we are working hard to help everyone complete the spring quarter and begin the summer quarter.

Today, Tuesday, April 28, 2020, the COVID-19 Response Team met to discuss some important announcements for our students.

Spring Graduation 2020

- Midwestern University's will make all of the virtual commencement ceremonies available as of 10:00 A.M., on Friday May 22, 2020. These can be viewed at any time. This is the beginning of the Memorial Day weekend, and it is our hope that the virtual graduations will be part of a celebratory weekend with loved ones near and far. More details will be made available to you in the upcoming days.
- Each college has a separate ceremony that follows closely the program outlined in the Graduation Program.
- Graduation Regalia and five copies of the Graduation Programs will be mailed to all graduates at your specified address prior to May 22, 2020.
- Diplomas are being printed reflecting the official date of your degree. These will be mailed to your home following the verification of all completed program requirements.

Midwestern University Student Loan Programs

- Midwestern University has three major school-based Student Loan programs. These include the Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine Student Loan program, the Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine Student Loan Program and the Midwestern University Foundation Loan Program that is designed for all other students.

- The Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine Student Program and the Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine Student Loan program are offered to third and fourth year medical students with no accumulation of interest or any repayment until after completion of a residency program. These loans have a zero default history.
- The Midwestern University Foundation Loan program is a credit based loan program that was instituted in 2015. The University Foundation Loan is funded with equity from the University and Credit Rated bond money that has a AAA+ Credit Rating by S&P Global (Standard and Poor's). Midwestern University began this program to offer to our students, in the final years of their education, better interest rates and no origination fees. These two key factors provide our students with substantial savings over the federal government Grad Plus Loans. That is why the Midwestern University Foundation Loan Program was implemented.
- We have a Zero Default Rate in the Midwestern University Foundation Loan program thanks to our successful graduates and financially conscientious students.
- Over the past month, we have been working closely with the rating agency to allow us to stop interest accrual and suspend payments from May 1, 2020 to October 31, 2020. This permission has now been granted. Effective May 1st, interest accrual will be discontinued and principal payments can be suspended. This is for all borrowers in the four categories: in-school, deferment and forbearance, grace, and repayment.
- All new borrowers who apply and qualify will also receive this benefit through October 31, 2020. We would encourage borrowers to consider this opportunity.
- These loans are just like a home mortgage. There are two component parts, interest and principal. By suspending interest accrual we would encourage students and graduates currently in repayment to take this opportunity to pay down the amount of the loan while there is no interest being applied. However, this is entirely up to the graduate, student and their loved ones.

My heartfelt thank you to the many faculty and staff who have dedicated your careers to teaching our students. I believe our colleagues continue to give the their best because seeing successful students is a wonderful reward. And to our students, remember the wise ancient Proverb, "Teachers open the door but you must enter by yourself." Continue to learn and thrive.

Stay well, stay connected and stay safe. Thank you all for your kindness and support of our students.

Be well.

Dr. G.