DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

Required Pre-matriculation Training

July 22, 2020

Dear Member of the Class of 2024,

As I promised in my July 10 email, I write today to introduce three important training modules that underscore the values we hold as a community. These programs are required for all first year students, and successful and timely completion of them is necessary both for your matriculation and as a component of your Moreau First Year Experience course grade. You should complete all three programs no later than July 31, 2020.

OUR VALUES

Notre Dame is a Catholic institution, informed and inspired by our Holy Cross tradition. We respect the dignity of each person, embracing the diversity of identities, backgrounds and perspectives that each of us offer. We aspire to create a community that is characterized by a collective sense of care and concern for one another and the common good. These values are timeless, but they are even more relevant as we begin this academic year.

1. RETURN TO CAMPUS ORIENTATION

We have worked hard with medical experts to reopen campus safely this fall, and the University has implemented a variety of new health and safety practices designed to minimize the transmission of COVID-19. Creating a safe and healthy environment for the members of the Notre Dame community is a shared responsibility—one that will require each of us to do our part and remain accountable to one another for our behavior, both on and off campus. Adhering to these practices is essential to ensure we can all remain on campus and in person together.
All Notre Dame students, faculty, and staff are required to complete the University’s Return to Campus orientation program, which outlines the University's COVID-19 related policies and requirements for ensuring a safe return to Notre Dame. To access the required Return to Campus orientation, please click here or log into Sakai and follow the link from the "Just Around the Bend" site.

2. BUILDING COMMUNITY THE NOTRE DAME WAY

While we are rightly concerned about responding effectively to the pandemic, we also care deeply about preventing other types of harm on our campus. Racism, other types of discrimination, harassment, and interpersonal violence are troubling challenges in our nation, and they have absolutely no place at Notre Dame. The University has created a program, Building Community the Notre Dame Way (BCND), that is designed to help prevent these instances from occurring and provide you with skills and strategies to make a difference. You can help make our campus one where everyone feels a sense of belonging, is free from violence, and can flourish.

To complete BCND, please log into Sakai and follow the link from the "Just Around the Bend" site. If you have any questions regarding this program, please contact Lauren Donahue, Program Director for New Student Engagement at 574-631-5550 or lauren.donahue@nd.edu.

Despite our best efforts at prevention, if you are impacted by interpersonal violence or acts of discrimination, know that the University stands ready to support you. SpeakUp is a tool you can use to share your experience, and a variety of other resources exist to offer confidential support and alternative reporting options. We want to know about your experiences so we can respond effectively and make our campus inclusive and welcoming.

3. REDUCING HIGH RISK ACTIVITIES

Alcohol and other drug misuse is a challenge on college campuses nationwide, including here at Notre Dame. Using alcohol or drugs this year carries even more risk than usual, because we know that these substances reduce inhibitions and can impact an individual’s ability to maintain health and safety guidelines. The stakes for our collective safety are high, and I urge you to make choices that will keep you, your friends, and our campus safe.

AlcoholEdu for College is a nation-wide, evidence-based online module that will provide you with education on these topics and help you develop critical skills to make more thoughtful and intentional decisions. To complete this program, please log into Sakai and follow the link from the "Just Around the Bend" site. Please note this module will be available for you to complete starting tomorrow, Thursday, July 23. If you have any questions regarding this program, please contact Kathy Wynne with the McDonald Center for Student Well-Being at 574-631-7970 or kywnne@nd.edu.

OUR COMMUNITY STANDARDS

These training programs are designed to help you better understand our community’s values and equip you with skills and strategies to help you fulfill them. The University’s standards of conduct reflect our commitment to these ideals and are contained in du Lac, our student code. Please review these standards before you come to campus. Calling one another to accountability in the context of these standards is a necessary part of our common life. In general, the University's conduct processes are grounded in student development and formation, allowing you to learn from mistakes. Violation of some behavioral standards, though, especially those that cause harm
to another, can jeopardize a student's presence in our campus community.

It is my experience that Notre Dame students are thoughtful, deeply committed to caring for one another, and a source of pride for our campus and the world. I have every confidence you will make thoughtful decisions that keep you safe and make our community a better place.

I hope these training programs help you feel better prepared to be a new member of our Notre Dame community. Travel safely to campus, and we look forward to meeting you in a few weeks!

In Notre Dame,

Erin Hoffmann Harding
Vice President for Student Affairs

---

Elly Brenner
Assistant Provost, Academic Advising
Director, Center for University Advising
University of Notre Dame
firstyear.nd.edu

574.631.7364

223 Coleman-Morse Center
Notre Dame, IN 46556