April 2, 2020
Update on Specialized Master’s Degree Programs

We understand this is a challenging and uncertain time. We also recognize all our master’s degree students have diverse and unique situations and, thus, we are working hard to offer as much flexibility as possible to support each of you through this challenging moment in history.

The plan
We intend to register all students in June. We intend to begin foundational courses and orientation programs in July and welcome as many students as possible on campus on August 24. Yes, all students will be enrolled in one online course starting on August 24, and face-to-face instruction will begin on September 28. Between August 24 and September 23, we will offer a wide range of career and academic programming both on campus and virtually for those who are still unable to make it to St. Louis.

If visa or COVID-19 issues prevent you from arriving August 24
In this instance, we are committed to work with you to alter your I-20 paperwork and change your start date to September 23. We will continue to provide career and academic programming to complement your experience. In this event, please consider that this option would actually allow you to continue your current internships or accept an internship that would provide you with more experience. These options would be useful in the job search process once you arrive on campus.

If visa or COVID-19 issues prevent you from arriving by September 23
The final option is the January 13 on-campus start date.
1. Students who cannot arrive by September 23—but would like to take fall classes online—can stay on track remotely and join on-campus classes in the spring. Please note, CPT would be impacted.
2. Alternatively, students who started online in August but are not interested in taking the rest of the fall classes online, can postpone their remaining fall courses and resume the program on campus in January.

CPT
For our 18-month programs, we are researching how we might incorporate CPT options—as well as a range of experiential programs and internships—into your time at Olin.
1. Students who start their program while residing in the United States in August 2020, and who are in active F1 status, will have the option to pursue CPT in May 2021.
2. Students who arrive in the United States in September 2020 and who are in active F1 status can pursue CPT in October 2021.
3. Students who arrive in the United States and who start in January 2021 will have the option to pursue CPT in January 2022.

*These options do not affect OPT.

**Deposits and Deferrals**

While we are sensitive to your concerns about COVID-19 and visa challenges, our contacts indicate that we should not experience significant challenges in securing visa appointments and visa processing with the later start dates. Students will need to deposit by the deadline to secure their seat, but we will work with you to make the following accommodations:

1. Should the COVID-19 situation continue and we are unable to start classes on campus on September 23—and you do not wish to take classes online in the fall—we will allow you to pause your fall coursework and resume in spring 2021.
2. Should you have challenges with your visa and you can provide documentation that you are unable to secure a visa in time for the September 23 start—and you do not want to continue with the program online—we will allow you to pause your fall coursework and resume in spring 2021.

*Please note, if you deposit and enroll you will begin classes in fall 2020. Should COVID-19 or visa issues prevent you from arriving by September 23 and you pause your fall coursework and resume in spring 2021, your tuition payment will be applied to the spring 2021 semester (minus the one online class you started in August). No refunds will be issued.