



Bridget K. Gorman, Ph.D.
Dean of Undergraduates

May 18, 2021

Dear Student,

Congratulations on your decision to enroll at Rice University! We are delighted that you will be joining our community. This August, you will join a group of the most talented young people from around the world in what we are sure you will find to be a fulfilling and exciting intellectual and social experience.

This is the first of several communications you will receive over the next few months from Rice. We are busily preparing for Orientation Week (O-Week) that will begin with move-in on the morning of **Sunday, August 15, 2021**. Specific details about O-Week and New Families Orientation (scheduled for the afternoon of Sunday, August 15) will be provided later this summer and will be available online at: <https://success.rice.edu/parents-family/new-families-orientation>. Please note that all family members should depart campus no later than 6:30 p.m. on move-in day. We encourage parents to join the Rice University Parents and Families Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/RiceParents/>. Visiting this page will also allow them stay updated on the great things the university is doing.

Please note: Campus wide communications regarding COVID-related policies and procedures can be found here: <https://coronavirus.rice.edu/>. Messages sent from my office to undergraduate students regarding COVID can be found here: <https://coronavirus.rice.edu/undergraduate-students>. At this time, we are optimistic that our fall semester will operate in a normal(ish) posture, but the exact details have yet to be determined. Please check these websites regularly for updates.

The Student Success Initiatives' website (success.rice.edu) contains vital information for new students and will be continually updated throughout the summer. We strongly encourage you to look through the entire website and to become familiar with its menus and resources. You will need to revisit the site often during the summer. Please make sure to familiarize yourself with the New Student Checklist under the "First Year Programs, O-Week" tab. This checklist details the deadlines for many of the forms and surveys you will need to complete in order to matriculate at Rice. The College Information Form, Academic Advising Questionnaire, Roommate Information Forms, First Look Questionnaire, and others should be submitted by **Tuesday, June 1, 2021**. Please complete all forms online. All forms, except the Health Data Form, are available online by accessing ESTHER (esther.rice.edu), then by clicking on the "Welcome to Rice" tab which includes the following:

- **College Information Form** - This form will assist us in making residential college assignments.
- **New Student Form and Roommate Matching Form** - The information on these forms will help us get to know you better. The questionnaires will be used by the student O-Week Coordinators to assign roommates, create O-Week groups, and more, and the instructions outline who may see each of these forms. We take the process of roommate matching very seriously, so it is very important that you complete these forms candidly.
- **Parent Information Form** – this form will include information about your parent/guardian and emergency contact.
- **Advising Questionnaire** - This form will provide information about your educational and research interests to your academic advisors.

- **First Look Questionnaire** - This form will assure your inclusion in the First Look, a directory of new students that you will receive when you arrive. We also ask that you include a photograph that clearly shows your face that will be used by your residential college and for the First Look.

The **Health Data Form** is also required of all incoming students and is due to Rice by **June 1, 2021**. A copy can be found online (<https://health.rice.edu/new-students/health-data-form>). Per Texas state law, all incoming first year and transfer students are required to provide verification of vaccination for meningitis. Rice must receive proof of vaccination or exemption no later than **Sunday, August 1, 2021**. Please consult with the Office of International Students and Scholars for international student deadlines. **If you do not have the meningitis vaccine or proof of exemption, per state law, you WILL NOT be able to move into the residential college for O-Week. Additionally, college assignments WILL NOT be released to any student who has not provided proof of vaccination or exemption. Although you can still participate in O-Week, if you do not provide proof of meningitis vaccination you will need to make your own housing accommodations off campus, and you must remain there until 10 days after receiving the vaccination. Please visit Student Health Services' website (health.rice.edu) for additional information.**

Please note that at this time, Rice has not announced whether COVID vaccination will be required prior to our fall semester start. We will separately communicate that information to incoming students as it becomes available.

Please note - the information you are asked to provide on the Health Data Form is essential if we are to be able to support your health and wellbeing, and that of the Rice community. You must complete the form in its entirety. Any student who does not complete this form will not be permitted to register for classes, and students who do not have proof of the meningitis vaccine or exemption WILL NOT be permitted to live in the residential colleges.

If you have physical or medical needs that will impact your living on campus, please let us know as soon as possible. Requests for special housing accommodations should be made online (<https://drc.rice.edu/disability-related-needs>) no later than **June 1, 2021**. Additional questions can be directed to the Disability Resource Center at 713-348-5841 or adarice@rice.edu. Additionally, if you have mental health concerns such as anxiety, attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder, depression, etc. please contact the Rice Wellbeing and Counseling Center at 713-348- 3311 by **July 15, 2021** to discuss options for continued care.

We invite you to sign up for the Center for Civic Leadership's "Civic Owlets" program, a flexible and remote service-learning opportunity that aims to introduce incoming students to the city of Houston and other members of the Rice community, including upperclassmen, faculty/staff, and each other! The program, conducted entirely online, will cover social issues relevant to the Houston area and enable participants to learn from and work remotely with local organizations that are striving to create positive, sustainable change. Students will be able to connect with incoming peers, begin to build community in their soon-to-be home, and learn about opportunities that will be available to them through the CCL and beyond. The program will be held the weeks of July 12th and 26th. More information and sign-ups will be available mid-June on the Center for Civic Leadership's Civic Owlets website (<https://ccl.rice.edu/co>).

All entering students are required to take the **Composition Exam** prior to arriving on campus. The exam is given online twice during the summer: **June 2 – June 7** and **June 23 – June 28**. This exam is mandatory, so be sure to add these dates to your summer schedule. Be sure to check out the New Student Checklist on Student Success Initiatives' website (success.rice.edu/checklist) as well as the Composition Exam website (compexam.rice.edu) for more information and updates.

The online Language Placement Exams are required for ALL students who are interested in studying a language at CLIC, even if you have no prior knowledge in the language(s) you selected.

Online language placement tests in 10 languages including Mandarin Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, and Korean will be offered **June 1 – June 30**. To take the online tests or to view information about other languages, please visit the Center for Languages and Intercultural Communication's website (<http://clic.rice.edu>).

New students have been added to our **Matriculating Class of 2021 Canvas Page**, a content management system used by most instructors at Rice. Throughout the summer and during O-Week, this site will serve as an information hub to help you make the most of your time and resources before classes begin. There will be videos and resources from various departments as well as information about opportunities that are specifically geared to help new students become accustomed to their new home including:

- **O-Week & New Student Resources** -There will be materials directly related to your transition to Rice and about Orientation Week including the New Student Checklist, the O-Week Schedule, and information from your residential College.
- **Academic Planning Information** - The Office of Academic Advising will supply materials for new students to become acclimated to the resources, policies, and procedures for all students at Rice and to prepare you for course registration during O-Week.

You will gain access to this site with your Rice NetID, which you should already be accustomed to using through the admissions process. If you are unsure of your password or do not remember your NetID, email helpdesk@rice.edu from your Rice email address to request it to be reset. We encourage you to check the Canvas Page frequently throughout the summer as information will be updated. This is also a good opportunity to acclimate yourself to Canvas, which will be frequently used in your classes at Rice.

College assignments will be determined around the first week of July. ***Notification of assignments will be made by each residential college via email on July 7. College assignments will not be released to any student who has not provided verification of their meningitis vaccination.*** Questions concerning college assignments should be directed to Tamara Jones, Student Services Administrator in the Office of the Dean of Undergraduates at tamarajones@rice.edu or call 713-348-4997.. The College Magisters will provide the official notification of college assignments; please do not call the Office of the Dean of Undergraduates to find out your assignment, as no college assignments will be released over the phone. You will receive information from your residential college with more specific information regarding the move in process in late July.

Student Success Initiatives (SSI) is an excellent starting point should you have any questions or concerns leading to O-Week and throughout your time at Rice. In addition to Orientation Week and New Families Orientation, SSI also coordinates UNIV 110, a course specifically designed for first year students; Rice Firsts, a mentoring program for first generation college students; and proactive advising to help students identify areas of support and growth in many areas of life at Rice. They can be reached via email at success@rice.edu or online at their website (success.rice.edu).

I look forward to welcoming you to Rice in August!

Sincerely,



Bridget K. Gorman
Dean of Undergraduates

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