

We wanted to pass along some updates to you about the Fall 2020 semester, as we are excited for you to begin your journey with us. We are full steam ahead for a start date of August 19th, and **all the necessary precautions have been, and will be taken**, to make sure that our campus in Greenville is as safe as possible. Increased sanitization, physical distancing in classrooms and common areas, cloth face coverings when physical distancing can't be maintained,, decongestion measures in hallways, and more, will all be in effect, at the recommendation of expert health consultants partnering with Clemson University to help us all have a safe return to campus this fall. The intent of the university is to emphasize blended delivery, combining in-the-classroom with online learning, to maximize flexibility and safety. Clemson University leadership is working through some of the last details that will be made public soon.

In the meantime, we wanted to reassure many of you who may be experiencing visa and/or I-20 issues, or may have some questions about how the fall semester will look. Our department has developed options for each of you, to make sure that you can start on time, no matter your situation or location! Regardless of how the university proceeds with developing in-person capability, **you will have the ability to take courses with online, asynchronous delivery to assist you in your situation.**

Option A) Starting in person, on time, and on campus. While there may be some barriers to certain courses, and we are still awaiting confirmed guidance from the university regarding the personal protection measures, this option would be for those in the U.S. already and those able to obtain a visa before the beginning of class. We will welcome those students in August*.

Option B) If you are an international student experiencing trouble with obtaining a visa on time (per International Services, you are allowed to enter the US up to 30 days after classes begin), ***rest assured you can start the program online with asynchronous delivery, and then join us in person later in the semester*** once you have your visa taken care of**. We are developing innovative ways to ensure maximum engagement and experiential learning opportunities within the constraints described above.

Option C) ***If your visa process doesn't get completed in the first semester, or in-person classes were suspended or reduced, we will have you covered so that you can complete your first semester program online with asynchronous delivery and subsequently join us in person for the spring semester***.***

**At this time, the university is planning for in-person delivery using the blended mode as described above. If the decision is made for Clemson to be online-only, international students (even those with visas) will be ineligible to enter the U.S. to begin their programs.*

***Students who enter the U.S. mid-term will require additional documentation, including a letter of support from the department, and an updated I-20 from Clemson University International Services. Additional information will be provided by International Services (is@clemsun.edu) including instructions on how to request a deferral of SEVIS records.*

****Students pursuing this option will need to defer their SEVIS records if they have already received an I-20 from Clemson University International Services*

As always if you have any questions, please let us know! The Department of Automotive Engineering looks forward to having you, in whatever capacity your situation finds you in, this August. More information about our virtual orientation, Tiger One cards, apartment options, the Greenville area, etc. will be sent out soon.