Fall 2020 at Douglass
An Overview of the Fall 2020 Douglass Experience
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Dear Students,

Today, we are faced with a situation of unprecedented proportions. The combination of illness, financial struggle, loss, and uncertainty created by the pandemic presents us all with issues that could echo for years to come. However, I promise you that you will always have access to the transformational academic experience offered at Douglass. With this in mind, the health and safety of our community remains our top priority. As such, I must share with you that as per the University’s decision, all Douglass programming in Fall 2020 will take place remotely. A remote fall is the best way we can protect our students, staff, instructors, alumnae, and their families.

This decision was not made lightly. As educators, we know the important role that experiential learning has on a student’s personal journey. College is a time not only for scholarly pursuits, but also for social growth, self-discovery, and forming valuable community connections that can last a lifetime. In the absence of residential life, our students will be seeking connection to each other, faculty, and staff. Douglass will still provide you with an outlet to fulfill these needs. In the following pages, we provide a glimpse of the programs, community events, courses, scholarships, and other opportunities Douglass will continue to host this fall so that you may keep thriving throughout your college experience. Please take a moment to read through the document as it mentions important resources and opportunities, including contacts for emergency financial and technological assistance.

While the announcement of the remote fall semester may come as a disappointment, we are not discouraged. I look forward to staying engaged with each of you throughout the coming months. We all need the Douglass Difference now more than ever, and we are eager to get started.

Sincerely,

Dean Jacquelyn Litt, Ph.D.
Dean of Douglass and Douglass Campus
Program Offering Highlights

Knowledge and Power: Issues in Women’s Leadership

Students taking the College's foundational course, *Knowledge and Power: Issues in Women's Leadership*, will spend the semester studying Audre Lorde's *Sister Outsider* in online classrooms. Additionally, during virtual plenaries open to all students, the community will engage with speakers in critical conversations on race, gender, class, sexuality, and more. Knowledge and Power students will also participate in the Barbara Voorhees Mentoring Program, which matches first-year and transfer students with upperclasswomen peer mentors.

The Douglass Project for Women in STEM

STEM students will have access to a variety of programs this fall, including the COVID-19 Women in Public Health Speaker and Conversation Series, the AWiCS program for Women in Computer Science, and the Project SUPER Research Symposium. Living-learning communities, including Reilly Douglass Engineering Living-Learning Community, The Computer Science Living-Learning Community, and Bunting Cobb Residence for Women in STEM, will all transform into learning communities that place extra emphasis on academic initiatives and building online peer support systems.
The BOLD Center at Douglass for Leadership, Career, and Personal Development

All Douglass students will continue to have access to the transformational resources at the BOLD Center. In addition to webinars throughout the semester, the BOLD Center will convert the Annual Career Conference into a virtual event. The staff is also working to redefine the mentoring program to better accommodate the current needs of students. Additionally, remote externship opportunities will become available for students in the fall semester.

The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Program

The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Program will provide events, groups, and other types of online offerings to foster a proactively anti-racist and inclusive environment on campus. Students can expect to see safe space events for women of color, a brand new lecture and panel series on gender and race, book club meetings and discussion groups, and much more.

Programs for First-Year and Transfer Students

Incoming students will experience a robust series of welcome activities to help them acclimate to college, make new friends, and get to know Douglass. These activities will include the Fall Convocation welcome ceremony, mailed prize boxes with exclusive Douglass gear, and opportunities to engage with fellow Douglass women. If you are interested in talking to an admissions counselor at Douglass or Rutgers, please contact Associate Dean Ellen Lieberman.
Housing

On-campus housing will be made available on a limited basis for students that meet the following criteria: graduate students; international and out-of-state students; students experiencing hardships, such as food or housing insecurities; and student athletes whose teams are slated to compete.

For students who fall into one of the above categories, Rutgers is currently working on an updated housing application that will be available July 6 – July 19. Students who are eligible for on-campus housing will reside on Busch, Livingston, or College Avenue and will receive room assignments via email in August. No residence halls will be open on Cook-Douglass in Fall 2020.

Refunds: Only first-time applicants pay a housing deposit. For students who are not eligible or no longer wish to live on campus, the $200 housing deposit will be issued. For more information, please click here.

Scholarships

Douglass scholarships will continue to be awarded to incoming and continuing students (first-year and transfers) based on donor specifications. All students who accept a Douglass scholarship must be enrolled in Douglass Residential College. Incoming students may enroll in Douglass through the MyRutgers Dashboard, under the "recommended for enrollment" section. Scholarship offer letters will continue to be sent through early September. Students who have already accepted their scholarships will see the funds posted to their term bill by the end of August 2020. For any questions about scholarships, contact the Director of Scholarships at Douglass, Merylou Rodriguez at merylou@echo.rutgers.edu.
Douglass' fall strategy supports R-Connection by delivering high impact academic and community centered programming right into your own home.

**What is R-Connection?**

R-Connection is a University-wide initiative that will ensure student life at Rutgers continues to thrive in Fall 2020. This commitment to creating a transformative Fall 2020 experience will encompass:

- Facilitating optimal digital learning environments and best practices for remote instruction
- Fostering community through virtual recreational and social events
- Committing to continuous innovation throughout the semester to serve students, faculty, and staff.

**President Holloway's Announcement**

Read President Holloway's strategy for learning, community-building, research, and leadership at Rutgers in Fall 2020.

**Chancellor Molloy's Announcement**

Important information on housing, financial aid, and more specific to students at RU-New Brunswick.
Emergency Assistance

If you find that you have unmet needs of any kind, including but not limited to financial relief, access to a laptop, or concerns for your safety at home, please reach out to Douglass.

Your **Douglass staff mentor** can work with you to set goals, write resumes and cover letters, and navigate services available through the University.

If you have challenges that your mentor is not able to help with, or if you feel that you need extraordinary assistance, please reach out to **Assistant Dean Leslie Danehy** for guidance. The College’s purpose is to serve and empower you, please do not hesitate to ask for the assistance you need to succeed.
Accessibility

Douglass Residential College at Rutgers University complies with all applicable federal and state laws regarding non-discrimination, equal opportunity, affirmative action, and providing reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities.

We strive for our experiences to be universally designed and useable by all people to the extent possible. If you require an accommodation to participate in online programming, please contact Dean Jacquelyn Litt at douglass_dean@echo.rutgers.edu at least 5 days in advance of an online event. If you need an accommodation for an event, please provide the name of the event; the date; and the accommodation required in your correspondence.