



HASKELL INDIAN NATIONS UNIVERSITY

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Haskell Classes will be fully online for Fall Semester 2020

June 25, 2020

With significant consideration and deliberation, in accordance with the guidelines provided by the Bureau of Indian Education, the administration of Haskell Indian Nations University has decided to provide exclusively online/distance learning courses and programming for the Fall 2020 semester. Given the status of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are planning to support our students' academic progress and success in the safest and most effective means available to us until the imminent threat of the spread of COVID-19 passes. Haskell has strategically used CARES Act funds to create the physical and personnel infrastructure to build a high-quality user experience and online learning system for just this situation. We are now well-positioned to introduce a robust distance learning platform for the fall semester.

Indian Country has been affected dramatically by the COVID-19 virus, and we want to avoid at all costs the serious effects that would result from in-person classes during a health crisis at an institution of higher learning, whose unique and exclusive mission is to serve Native students. Out of an abundance of caution for how a virus outbreak might impact our campus, our students, our faculty, and our staff – as well as the diverse communities to which they belong – we are committed to distance learning for the Fall 2020 semester, offering every class we would otherwise offer on an online format.

This decision was made with consideration of the following criteria:

1. What would provide the greatest safety measures and educational/professional progress for our students, faculty, staff, and the Tribal communities they represent, many of whom are categorized as high risk?
2. How would enrollment be affected by the availability of a low-cost and high-quality education alternative for those students who cannot attend Haskell in the traditional in-person setting?

Haskell now possesses the resources and wherewithal to provide Haskell students with an outstanding online learning experience – and we are committed to making Fall 2020 another successful semester at our University. Our faculty and staff are spending the summer preparing for a new academic year, ensuring that the student experience at Haskell is rich, rewarding, and memorable. As a result of this cautious, well-planned strategy, academic progress will be assured for all students, safety and health will be preserved among our Tribal communities, and Haskell will continue to meet its mission to serve the needs of Indian Country.