

July 20, 2021

Dear Viterbi Students:

We hope that you and your families and friends are healthy and flourishing despite the very unusual circumstances in which we find ourselves this past year. We look forward to you joining the USC Viterbi community soon. In anticipation, we are reaching out to share the latest updates regarding the Fall 2021 semester.

The recent Provost [memo](#) from July 14 shared that some of the University's classes have already returned back in-person for the second summer session and that the university is continuing to plan for a full return to in-person activities in the Fall. We are excited for all of us to return back to campus.

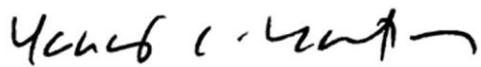
With that said, we understand some of the challenges and barriers that you may be experiencing as you plan your arrival or return to campus. To accommodate the possibility of some students attending remotely — those with a medical accommodation from the Office of Student Accessibility Services or who are unable to travel to the United States because of visa or travel restrictions — we want to share that nearly all Fall 2021 Viterbi courses will be available for both in-person and remote attendance, in Viterbi classrooms equipped for both in-person and synchronous online attendance or University general-use classrooms with Zoom capabilities to provide similar accommodations. In order to meet the various needs of our student population, our Viterbi Admission & Student Engagement (VASE) Student Affairs team has developed an extensive hybrid student services and programming model that promotes access, equity, safety and flexibility that includes the continuation of both online and in-person advising and programming.

The Viterbi School of Engineering will continue its steadfast commitment to the education of our students. With this in mind, we will continue pursuing all possible avenues and options to ensure that the changes in the course of the pandemic and ensuing actions will have as minimal an impact on your education and degree progress as possible.

As we navigate through these times together, please do not forget that your future as engineering graduates is brighter than ever before. Indeed, an important lesson we have learned during this unprecedented crisis is the vital role that science and technology play in society, not only on how to combat this pandemic through rapid vaccine development, but also on how to help us all work, innovate, and create a better world as we exit the COVID-19 crisis. The post pandemic world will impatiently need you, your skills, and your mindsets the as soon as possible, particularly because they come with our approach of Engineering +. I know that this anticipation is mutual: you can't wait either. We are here with the same eagerness to help you reach your educational goals and graduate as proud Viterbi engineers and scholars.

We look forward to seeing you in the Fall.

Thank you, and Fight On!



Yannis C. Yortsos

Dean, USC Viterbi School of Engineering