

TRANSCRIPT – College of Engineering Graduate Student Listening/Q&A Session

Dean Peter Crouch

July 22, 2020

It's 3 o'clock in the afternoon where I am. I don't know where what time it is wherever you are, but I'm very happy that you could join us. We are going to try to answer your questions in our graduate student listening session.

So we have a set of items that I'd like to discuss before we get into the actual question and answers.

So the way this is gonna go. I'm going to go through some issues that I'd like you to remember as we go through this listening session, which will make it easier for everybody.

Then I'm going to go through some questions and answers that we've already decided that many of you would want to ask and so we feel it's important to go to those questions first.

After that I will review some links for you so that you can get to specific people in the College who can answer specific questions for you.

After that, we will get to a question and answer session.

A few rules of the road:

First off, at any time that you are motivated by the discussion please post a relevant question or follow-up question so that we can work out whether we need to answer that. So be listening to all the questions that people are asking; They may answer your questions so you don't need to ask it, for example. But if you have a specific issue related to that, please do post it.

Please do not ask the same question more than once. We will be sure that we add a transcript of this session so that when your question is answered it will be recorded and you will be able to find them in the college FAQ sheet after this session.

Please make sure as I said before to go to the links that you can see on your posting here and we will go through those in just a minute because many of the questions and answers that you will have are in fact answered in these links and the links to the graduate advisors that are contained there.

And finally we are doing our best to answer the questions as well as we know the answers today. I think many of you are very well aware that the world changes and sometimes our answers have to change as we adapt.

So one of the things you should do is try to make sure that you go back to the links that we will show you regularly to make sure that your current understanding is up to date.

So with that let's go onto the pre-posted questions and answers.

We have constructed about 10 questions with some answers that I hope that you can read and please try to work out if we are indeed answering a question that you have through our answer.

I'm gonna try to read read these questions and answers so that you can help understand if this pertains to you.

So, **question 1:** I'm considering postponing my start to Spring 2021 due to my fear of the virus. Is this a good idea? How prepared is UTA to handle students in person in a face-to-face format? Does postponement hurt my chances?

Crouch: If you are a continuing student currently outside of the U.S. you can join the university virtually. If you are unable to be here on campus by August 20-August 24, when face-to-face classes begin. If you are near campus and you can register for face-to-face hybrid or online courses, postponement will not affect any future attendance at the University. The university is establishing protocols for students, staff and faculty on campus that adhere to CDC, state and local safety guidelines. These of course include social distancing, mandatory mask wearing, additional supplies and times for cleaning shared spaces, reduced occupancy in classrooms and more. The health of our new and continuing students, staff and faculty, of course are of utmost importance to us.

Question two: If I postpone my initial admission will my file be re-evaluated? Will I have to pay the deferral fee of \$60? Is it possible I will lose my admission offer? Do departments have the discretion to reevaluate application files?

Crouch: So please confirm the answer that I give now with your department. It is likely to change depending on various things going forward. But we'll be sure that if the department decides not to re-evaluate you then your admission offer will stand. In particular the question of paying the fee, once again if you defer is right now being discussed at the university and we will very soon be able to give you an answer. I will share as many of these decisions of course by those that we think this applies to through their application by independent email to each of you.

Alright, moving on.

Question three: Say I've received graduate assistant funding, but due to issues beyond my control such as an embassy closure I could not receive a visa to join UTA. Can I continue to be a GTA from my home country for an online class?

Crouch: So unless the department for which you're going to work as a GTA determines that the student can perform the GTA duties remotely, and unless the student has a U.S. Social Security Number, and the student either has a U.S. bank account or a valid foreign address, then we can in fact do that.

If the student has a Social Security Number but no U.S. bank account a check can be mailed to the student but then of course there's the issue of security and time to receive the check and whether or not a check in U.S. dollars can actually be deposited into your local account. So the answer is yes or no depending on your circumstances and clearly if you need to know your particular case doesn't fit this, please inquire.

Question four: I'm planning to come to campus in August and I was hoping to live in one of the residence halls. Are they open? Are they safe and if so should I go out find a suitable place to stay?

Crouch: The answer is yes, on-campus housing is available. Housing has been working with our environmental safety teams to create a safe living environment that goes for, clearly, our students residing in the U.S. as well as residing outside the U.S. and specifically you could go to our university website, uta.edu/housing, and find out all the latest particulars on campus housing.

Question 5: I was relying on meeting with my academic advisor in person to get help with class selection and degree planning. Is this still possible? If not what are the alternatives?

Crouch: To maintain social distancing and lessen our person-to-person contact, academic advisors are mostly working remotely. Probably most of your faculty members' appointments can of course be made using a phone or virtual modes. Something like this. All you have to do is schedule them with an advisor. We posted our college advisors in this link that is listed here, so if you need advising we recommended just go to this link, find your department, assuming that you have a department assigned, and through this link you will be able to get an appointment with an advisor.

Question 6: Can tuition be paid in installments if I'm attending fully online:

Crouch: I think the payments can be made whether or not you're attending fully online and there are many payment options available. To access the different mechanisms for payment of tuition, etc., go

to the link that we provide here, uta.edu/fees, and you'll be able to find out payment options in that website.

Question 7: I'm planning to do active research with my supervisor. Are labs open and able to be used in person? Are they safe?

Crouch: The answer is yes, most definitely our labs are open and can be used safely. We have put into action mechanisms to ensure the safety of our labs. But clearly if you're intending to go work in a lab, it is most advisable to check with the supervisor of your lab because every lab is very probably operating in a different fashion, so if you know that you're going to be working on research then you almost naturally know who your supervisor is. Please make sure that you contact your supervisor, presumably by email.

Question 8: All international students required to get a TB shot/test and those younger than 20 must also get a meningitis shot. I feel uncomfortable getting these shots and taking the risk of getting the virus. Is it possible that the required test shots can be postponed to a later date?

Crouch: If a student is attending on-campus classes or living on campus, they are required to have a TB screening test done before the first day of classes. Students taking classes exclusively online and not living on campus can have their TB screening requirement postponed until spring or when they get here. So, even if you're living on campus you'll probably have to get this done as well so this is only excluding people who are not living on campus and exclusively taking their courses online.

Question 9: Do classes in the fall have a pass/fail grade option or will we receive letter grades as normal?

Crouch: The answer to that is simple. The pass/fail option for fall is no longer an option. We will grade using A through F scale as usual.

Question 10, and this is the final question answered that we have prepared: As an international student can I retain my scholarship?

Crouch: Of course, scholarships are quite complicated, so this is a fairly long answer.

Students taking all online classes will receive their scholarships as long as they maintain full-time status. Students in the U.S. taking all online classes are also able to receive their scholarships as long as they maintain full-time status.

Students do not need a Social Security Number to receive a scholarship unlike a payment for GTA or greater issues.

UTA in general is not deferring scholarships until spring unless online studies are unavailable, and for that reason the student is unable to enroll for the fall.

So international students who are not offered the opportunity to enroll in online classes for fall and who do not have a choice to defer until spring due to their inability to travel to the United States will have a scholarship held and deferred until spring 2021.

So under those circumstances you will be able to defer your scholarship.

But in general if you have any questions regarding tuition charges or scholarships for fall 2020 or spring 2021, please contact Student Accounts at 817-272-2172 or this email address:

studentaccounts@uta.edu, or the Office of International Education at 817-272-2355 or international@uta.edu.

So that's the end of our list of prepared questions. Just to refresh all the links that have been posted for you I just wanted to make sure that you're aware of them. The first is the UTA Coronavirus FAQ page. This deals with all your health and safety issues around campus.

And of course many of you have to travel and so UTA travel guidance is supplied in this link provided here.

Many of you of course are international students and we have a special website for international students answering many questions that you as international students would have.

This is the 4th bullet here. We have our own college FAQ page which contains the questions and answers I just talked about and any questions and answers that we deal with today will be added to this FAQ page so that you can go back and refer to this link if you didn't quite get an answer.

And then of course, as I said, advising. You all should make sure that you get the latest advice from your department-specific advisors and our college link for this is posted at this website which contains all the links to individual department advises. Please use this.

And finally, if you have issues at all of a general nature to do with anything that you're hearing today, post to our general email address, GradEngineering@uta.edu.

So with that, I think we're gonna go straight into your questions and I'm going to begin trying to take these questions.

First off.

The first question I've got is: Regarding fall classes, when will fall classes begin and when do we need to submit the fees and register for classes?

Fall classes begin in the last week of August. But relative to getting a precise answer on the registration Maybe I should go to Sebastian Fuentes.

Fuentes: Hello. Registration for fall classes you should be receiving information now through your student account for new student orientation for international education from the International Education Office and then information from your academic advisors for graduate students to schedule appointments with your academic advisor and identify the classes that would be eligible for you to take online. Registration is currently underway for fall. And anytime between you attending the prerequisites for the International Education Orientation International orientation and meet with the academic advisor you should be able to register for classes.

The second part of that question was regarding fees, I believe. Yes, was regarding paying fees when you register for your classes online. In MyMav it will tell you when your fees are due. There is the option of paying your fees all at once or you may also pay your fees in installment payments.

Moderator: This next question would probably be good for Sebastian. Do we need I20s even if we're attending online classes?

Fuentes: That's a great question so I20s we will issue you a new I20 for spring 2021 that you may take to the embassies. At this time, new I20 for this fall is not required. Our representative from the Office of International Education, Jay Horn, is on the line. Jay, is there anything else you'd like to say about this comment?

Horn: Sure, I would just say we need to clarify whether or not the student is outside the United States or inside. So regardless, if you're inside the United States and you're enrolled, even if you're enrolling online, you would have to have an I20. So if you're outside the U.S. we're not requiring an I20 for new students but you do have to at least show proof of your finances. That's part of the communication that was sent out to all of our admitted students. So hopefully that answers the question.

Moderator: Yeah, and the next one is sort of along the same lines: what if we take online for fall 20 and then come for the next semester and what if the visa Embassy is still not open?

Horn: If you're residing outside the United States you will have to have a visa in order to enter so that will be another problem that we will have to face at that time. We have heard recently that the embassies are beginning to open up gradually. They will not release a

list of which countries are opening but we're finding out little by little so we're in hopes that gradually those will be open and you will have access then to make your application. You want to make sure if you're not attending in the United States for fall that you wait to apply when you get your spring I20. Even though you're starting school here in the fall virtually, your entrance to the United States should match with your I20.

Moderator: Again along the same lines: if we're going to attend online classes, we wanted to know the further steps.

Horn: The answer should be in the FAQ. Also, in our communications that we've sent out to our students. Basically, new students or continuing students need to go to their MyMav account and look for the activity guide to accept the activity guide. Now I want to make sure everyone understands that activity guide is for overseas online enrollment only. It does not apply to students in the United States and that will be rectified later on if you accidentally sign up for that. But if you're outside the U.S. and you want to enroll online you want to go and accept that activity guide. Read it carefully first then accept it, and then we will assign this service indicator on your account. That will help your academic advisor identify you. You'll also need to sign up if you're a new student you need to sign up for the international virtual orientation and when you do that, they're going to send you.

A list of pre-orientation or links to pre-orientation modules must be complete in order for your holds to be released so that we can allow you to register.

Moderator: We're awfully glad you're here because here's another one: I took an I20 form before leaving the U.S. in April. Do I need a new I20 for spring 2021? And for going to an embassy for applying for a new visa?

Horn: Yeah, I think we would need to know a lot more detail about this. I don't want to advise you incorrectly so my suggestion is that you would contact your academic or your international advisor and find out because I don't know if the student is changing educational levels, continuing a degree, starting a new degree... So we need to work with on a case by case basis.

Moderator: And from a continuing student: As a continuing student, will I have any issues in my F1 status or entering the U.S. if I plan to have the fall semester from my own country?

Horn: I don't think you'll have a problem, but we don't exactly know what's going to happen in regards to that and we're waiting for additional guidance from the federal government about this. If you

remember in spring, a waiver was provided which said that international students could reside outside the United States and maintain their F1 status, if they were full time, enrolled and otherwise maintaining status.

So, we're waiting for a guidance on that. We're hoping to get something soon and as soon as we have anything about that we'll send out a communication. I'd make sure that you're checking regularly your UTA email. We have a list of all these announcements on our website on the very front page there's a link that goes to all the announcements related to the CV guidance for new students. There's a web page there for online students and new students on campus which will kind of walk you through all these processes

Moderator: OK, as an interlude we have a different type of question: Are the course schedules on MyMav for fall 2020 for CSE tentative? Will there be chances of future changes before our enrollment starts?

Crouch: The course schedules are as close as we can get them. Having said that, there will necessarily be some updates to the course schedules but we're trying to make sure that there are as few as possible. But yeah, and so checking those course schedules regularly, I think, is another important thing to do.

Moderator: What is the deadline to defer or accept the online agreement?

Horn: Let me start with the online agreement. We would encourage you highly to accept the online agreement prior to census date because that is what will allow you to be enrolled without any difficulties. I think it's going to be cut off shortly after that. It may not be a hard cutoff but we really need to be in courses by census date and obviously the better so that you can enroll in courses and get academically advised and get the right courses. Sebastian, I might need your help. Is there a deadline to defer?

Fuentes: No. Students have the ability to go use our update reactivation application to defer for a future semester at any point. We would encourage them though to do so prior to census data as well so that we can provide them the best guidance for joining us for a future semester

Moderator: And where can you find the link to defer like that? Where would that be?

Fuentes: Sure, I'm going to provide it in response to the chat, but you just go to our admissions website and then click on international and at the very bottom we have information on how to update your active application. I'll provide the link for graduate and the link for undergraduate.

Moderator: How can we get this session video?

Jeremy Agor: Once the session's over and once we've had a chance to look at the transcript and get all the questions together we're hoping to have the video and the transcript posted to the FAQ page that's up in the links on the Q&A. So, probably about a week it should be posted to the College FAQ site.

Moderator: This really is an add-on to the last question: Should we fill the defer form right now or wait till August 1st week for the decision regarding fees?

Crouch: I'll speak on that I'm not really sure how those are connected. The fees are already decided. Those aren't going to change so I don't know. The decision to defer is really yours to make, and obviously once you've made a final decision in your mind I would go ahead and do that.

Moderator: Can I study on line from Iran?

Crouch: This is interesting question. I wish one of our faculty members were here because I've heard a mixed messages about this. We have heard of international students in Iran who have been studying online during the spring and have been successful during that. Recently, I have heard from a student that they think they're going to have trouble because of slow Internet and because of a synchronous classes. I really don't know what to say. I mean, as far as we're concerned you can do that if you can make arrangements for your our home country. There are no restrictions currently on that.

Moderator: Thank you. I'm planning to move to my home country as all my classes are online so will my visa expire and I have to apply again?

Horn: Moving to your home country doesn't make your visa expire so you should look on your passport and see what the date on the visa in your passport is. If that will expire while you're gone, yes that would require a new visa. It would require also but you need to look at your I20 and make sure that that's also current. So I just want to say one thing about moving to your because your course is online. Courses that are online here in the United States are not the courses that will be available to you outside the U.S. That may not seem understandable to you but by policy the university and the state requires that we set aside specific courses for students who are outside the United States and so these are what we're calling 900 section courses. Those are listed on the university's website. You can Google international overseas enrollment and there will be a whole website that shows a list of those courses so I wouldn't assume that what you're enrolled in right now will work if you're going home.

Moderator: There was a question about how the posting of our courses whether it's fixed already.

Crouch: I think we probably will be posting more 900-level classes as time ticks away so that's another reason why students should regularly look at the available list.

Moderator: Next question: It's not clear to me, but for fall semester can I take all the online classes since the rule for complete online load for international students is revoked?

Horn: So the reversal of the July 6 guidance is what you're talking about in the July 6 guidance are really spoke to universities which were online only So because UTA is a hybrid model school we're still waiting, as are most of the schools in this area and across the U.S., for some final determination about people in the United States. How many online courses they can be enrolled in and still maintain their status. So just a kind of hold on for that. We're trying to verify. My encouragement to you is that you enroll in one online course and two hybrid that would easily satisfy the rule regardless if we went back to the old guidance and it would probably be just as convenient to many of the hybrid courses have little on campus requirement. But they do meet the requirement for on-campus courses.

Moderator: Here's another you may have to interpret. There are many students starting fall 20 on H4 while they're waiting for CE OS approval. Can we take the first semester fully online? Will we be eligible for the reduced fee structure?

Horn: In that case, H4 is a dependent visa for H1s and so I'm assuming that the CE OS is change of status from H4 to F1. That's my guess on that, so I would encourage you if you're in process you should be maintaining status because you don't want to have your change of status approved and then you be automatically out of status because you're not fulfilling that immigration requirement. So we would encourage you to enroll full time and to meet whatever the standards are currently for

F1 students. If that's what you mean, if the H4 isn't doing a change of status to permanent residency that's another issue we should talk about separately. Eligible for reduced fee structure, in that case So H4s, because you're enrolling as an H4 there is a reduction in fees. You're probably aware that H4s have the right to domicile and then if you meet those requirements you would be eligible for in-state tuition I think that maybe what you're talking about and as long as your current status up until census is that you would pay the in-state fee.

Moderator: Do international students in the U.S. get to attend fully online courses?

Horn: Like I said, as soon as we get any kind of firm information about that we're going to send that out immediately to our students

or faculty and staff. It's a very big question It's very frustrating right now for students and the university and we hope to get something for you soon.

Crouch: But they can attend one?

Horn: At least. Yes, at least one online course. They can choose any number. I thought it meant like only. But for sure, you can attend one online course, yes.

Moderator: We heard that ICE rules have been reverted. Can we choose any number of online classes? Is that a restatement of the question?

Horn: Yeah, same answer, yeah.

Moderator: For new students of fall 2020 if the spring 2021 semester goes online too, how will it affect our OPT?

Horn: If the new students are inside the United States for fall 20 international students in F1 category there would be no impact on your OPT there. You will be able to maintain status as long as you follow the guidelines presented will be eligible for OPT if you're a new student and you're outside the United States for fall and if the spring semester is online again meaning that you are outside the U.S., I'm guessing is what that means, then you would still have to come into the United States, gain F1 status and be here for one academic year, fall and spring, in order to be eligible for an OPT application. So I would say yes as long as you got here by the next fall it still will have the full year to maintain your status and get the immigration benefits.

Moderator: I'm going to take virtual classes for fall 2020 Do we still have to purchase health insurance?

Horn: I don't know where you are based on that question so I'll answer both scenarios. If you're inside the United States, yes, you must have health insurance. If you're outside the United States, no, you do not have to have health insurance.

Moderator: Can I take these nine hours online and not even one hybrid or face to face?

Horn: The answer to that and I would encourage you not to do that right now. If you want to get your best classes and the ones that you really want, I would enroll in two hybrid and one online and then later on if you want to switch. If we find out that you can maintain status with more online classes you can make adjustments at that time.

Moderator: I'm taking asynchronous online classes. Will there be a fee reduction?

Fuentes: No. There has been a modification to tuition and fees for those that are studying outside the United States. It is my understanding for those that are in the United States tuition and fees are still structured the same that no change has been made there at this time. Again though, if you are in your home country registering for classes a change in your tuition fee structure it is very important when you meet with your advisors that you are registering for section 900 courses as those courses will permit you to pay at the reduced rate or the International distance tuition rate that we have set up for this fall.

Moderator:

As the COVID cases are high in Texas is it final that the University is going to open?

Crouch: There is clearly no final answer until we actually get to the beginning of semester. It is the case of today every indication is that the University will have some form of face-to-face classes. I think that we are hoping of course that the COVID cases across the country in general are in fact going to decline. So it depends a bit on your point of view but I my guess is that it will continue to open for some form of face-to-face in the fall. Does anybody else have a better crystal ball?

I think that of course that is an exceedingly important question and we just make our best judgments. It is important to know now that even though we are working on how to both accommodate hybrid online and face-to-face courses, we are in the background making sure that we can in fact operate totally online so that if in fact that is the case then we will definitely be operating online as we did at the end of spring and during this summer.

Moderator: In your response to ICE guidance where you stated that it's better to take two hybrid and one online course, what do you recommend for final semester students like me who only have one class left to complete the coursework? What should it be, online or hybrid?

Horn: So it's very clear you're talking about coursework so I don't know if there's thesis or other things going on. But if it is truly only one course left that course must be a hybrid or face-to-face So there must be an on-campus component to your class. Even though it's your final course there's only one you would not be allowed to be enrolled online if you have other things. Thesis and dissertation, these also qualify as on-campus courses, so you can enroll in those also. So if you had for instance one course and you were starting your thesis, your thesis would meet the qualification for an on-campus course and then your coursework could be online.

Moderator: How are students supposed to take hybrid courses if most of the courses offered are online?

Horn: My understanding is that the mix of courses that are available across the institution are about 30 face-to-face, 40 hybrid and the others online. So if you need a hybrid course that's not available, I would talk to your academic department. They should be able to find you something.

Crouch: We in the college are trying to monitor clearly what courses we're offering relative to the DHS and ICE guidances and so my hope is as soon as we get better guidance we will be able to change the classes accordingly depending on how swiftly we can do that. The catch is that although we will attempt to do that it may be that your particular course that you particularly need is not available online even though we're able to put other courses online.

Moderator: There is a question about submitting official transcripts

Fuentes: We provided the opportunity we continue to do so to provide you the option of uploading your unofficial transcripts. If you still need to fulfill the requirement of submitting your official transcripts you can email us at utaadmissions@uta.edu and we'd be happy to work with you.

Moderator: How often do we have to attend classes in person if it's a hybrid four course?

Lynn Peterson: Maybe I should answer that. That totally depends on the individual instructor. All hybrid four is, is there is some connection and that is generally in the nature of a lab course so you just have to indicate to your instructor that you're interested in knowing more about it.

Moderator:

So could you please tell us more about the difference in courses if we plan to go to our home country?

Crouch

At some level there's no difference in the courses I mean the content of the courses are pretty much identical. An issue that hasn't been brought up here is the question of exams and how we assess courses, and that may be different.

So Lynn, is, do you think there's any other intelligence on that?

Peterson: No, I think that's exactly right. The course is the same but we may have to adapt the way that the online course is assessed.

Moderator: If I take full semester online would I be able to do CPT in summer 21?

Horn: Right, so I think this question is referring to people who are outside the United States. In other words, there's a kind of path that sometimes occurs for students that they come in the fall and

they take the spring semester and then by summer they're eligible to do a CPT. So in this case if you're outside the United States you are not gaining F1 status and the associated benefits. So you would not become F1 in F1 status until you entered the United States, let's say in spring. So then you would not be eligible in summer of 21. You could be eligible the semester after finishing the next fall semester.

Moderator: If I continue online for spring also then am I eligible for an F1 visa later and CPT and OPT in the US?

Horn: For the F1 visa, just because you've already taken some courses towards your degree would not mean that you would not be eligible so you would apply for your visa. The CPT and OPT thing, it really just depends on how long your degree is. If we're talking about graduate students, if you're a master's-level student and you start and do the first year online then probably CPT would not be an option for you because it would be the end of your degree and then it would be time for you to do OPT. It would not affect your OPT application though, so that would be should be no problem, but CPT would probably be questionable.

Moderator: What if we paid the deferral fee of \$60 and then the University decides not to take the fee? Then what about the fee we paid?

Fuentes: At this time, application fees are non-refundable under our current policy. However, as indicated we are looking at policy as it relates to fall 2020 intake and so any changes to policies around waiving the fee or offering a refund for those that have already updated will be in any official documentation or emails that we send to you in the next coming weeks as we approach fall.

Moderator: If I'm an international student starting fully online classes for fall '20 from inside the U.S., will the same fee as that of the overseas students be applicable to me? I'm not yet eligible for in-state fees.

Horn: Two clarifications: we're not sure that you're going to be eligible for fully online in fall '20 at this point, so just a clarification there, but regardless students who study inside the United States are being charged at a different rate than students that are outside the U.S.

Moderator: I'm a new PHD student and planning to take online classes in fall '20 from my home country I had my GTA offer starting this fall. Will my tuition fees be reduced if I take online classes?

Crouch: Assuming that your GTA is being offered and it is being accomplished normally as you were as you were here, my assumption is that you would have the same benefits as you enjoyed if you were here. Do

you think that's different, Sebastian?

Fuentes: No, I don't think that's any different as of right now.

Moderator: What would the time schedule be for asynchronous lectures conducted for international students?

Crouch: I think the time schedule a clearly depends on the individual faculty member conducting the lecture. So I mean, in terms of when these classes are offered I mean where is and do... Lynn where these are in fact scheduled?

Peterson: I think an international student section A is the one that has the asynchronous connection. And that there would be the 900 sections are asynchronous, correct Jay?

Horn: It was dependent upon the faculty, so yeah.

Crouch: So the answer is then probably that there would be no accommodation for asynchronous for international students who happened to take something that's offered synchronously uhm but if in fact it's a 900 course then that would be asynchronous so it wouldn't be an issue.

Moderator: I'm a continuing graduate student and I left the U.S. Do I need to get a new version of the I20 for coming back to the U.S.? I'm asking this because of changes in rules because of the COVID19 situation and should there be stated on my I20 that my classes are not fully online?

Horn: So this requirement did exist in the July 6 guidance but if you remember that was reversed and so according to our current understanding that requirement in fact it was specifically stated that the requirement for a new I20 with the notation that the courses are not fully online is no longer a requirement. So if you're overseas and are a continuing student and you have an I-20 that's still valid for the future then you should not require a new I20. You wanna just check and make sure your visa's still valid and your I20 is still valid. Your visa needs to be valid six months in the future when you enter the U.S. so ... no that's not true, sorry the passport needs to be valid six months in the in the future, and Visa valid the day of entry. Sorry about that.

Moderator: That appears to be our last question, so we have completed the session.

Horn: Just a reminder to everyone to keep looking for your UTA email. That's where all of our communications are going through. Our office has been communicating fairly regularly as we find out more about the guidance fall and so be on the lookout for those of you who are going to be studying outside the United States. You want to check out the virtual events that are happening on campus for fall. There's a

calendar, an events calendar that you can see and there's plenty of virtual events that you can participate in. The Office of International Education is going to be doing a couple of sort of social events during the fall to connect our students who are outside the United States with our students inside the U.S. so be on the lookout for those programs coming up in the near future.

Check out our website. Again, if you look on the front page there's a kind of news bulletin where it has a few links. Click on that link. It takes you to all the changes that have occurred and they're dated and then also our page for new international students both outside the U.S. and inside.

Moderator: There are a couple more questions. Alright, I'm feeding them out there right now. Here's one: I am an on-campus student but the CS Department is not offering many courses offline or hybrid.

Crouch: I thought most of the courses were actually hybrid. Certainly many are. I think the best suggestion there is to really work with the advisor who is trying as hard as you would want to be able to make a schedule for each student. So as they determine that there are people who students who are not being helped, they're working with the possibilities in the department to make modifications of what is being offered. So I think stay tuned but do communicate with the advisor.

Moderator: Is there any difference in job opportunity between fall and spring 21?

Crouch: I don't think that we know enough to be able to tell any difference yet. There is of course one big event that's gonna happen between fall and spring, is that the U.S. will have a presidential election. So there are many changing facets going on ,but personally I don't believe that the job opportunities are going to be terribly different.

Moderator: I do not see any new questions.

Crouch: So let me thank everybody who's been on this call. And just to reiterate that we really are trying to provide real-time intelligence to the whole situation about courses and the latest that we know on these web links and so the best advice at all to consult these web links and then for specific information about courses and advising about your particular program, please do go to the college link with all of the department advisors. And finally if you really can't get any joy out of those just email GradEngineering@uta.edu and somebody will try to get your question or issue to the right place.

So thank you for all attending. I look forward to seeing you as many online or face-to-face as possible in the fall at the end of August. Thank you very much for attending.