

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, HUMANITIES AND ARTS

September 2, 2020

Dear SSHA Graduate and Undergraduate Students,

It's the start of the Fall 2020 semester and on behalf of the faculty and staff, we wanted to welcome you to the School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts (SSHA). Some of you are returning students, some are new, and all of you are part of the largest and most diverse school on the UCM campus. Indeed, your continued success is an important part of fulfilling our mission:

The mission of the School of Social Science, Humanities, and Arts at UC Merced is to explore and explain the past and present human condition as expressed through arts, culture, institutions, behaviors, and ideas. Our intellectually diverse community of scholars and teachers are united by a commitment to rigorous scholarship and excellence in teaching. We develop analytical, critical, and creative thinkers, conscientious and active global citizens, and lifelong learners and leaders.

The start of this semester is new territory for all of us, and we are in this experience together. The COVID situation presents us with unique stresses and the need for adaptations no one expected. Nonetheless, even in a remote context, SSHA programs continue to offer robust and high-quality education that is crucial both to you and society. You will be successful and earn your degree, and in turn you will be one among our future thinkers, leaders, workers, and helpers of the world.

During this time, recall that strength and growth come from being part of communities and staying reflective. We encourage you to support each other, access resources, ask questions, and engage with fellow students and professors as best as you can remotely. Know that this unique learning context will evolve towards normality, eventuating in a vibrant college life, and opportunities for in-person connections with peers and faculty. Your success means a lot to us, you have the full support of our staff and faculty.

For information and contacts, visit our SSHA website at ssha.ucmerced.edu. If you have questions about SSHA student opportunities, academic policies, services and processes, and/or instructional support, SSHA's associate dean, Dr. Zanzucchi, is a resource to undergraduate and graduate students. We encourage you to also stay connected with Academic Advising's newsletters and webinars and Graduate Services online office hours. See SSHA Student Resources at ssha.ucmerced.edu/student-resources.

Sincerely,

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