

# Flexible Learning

**Goldey-Beacom College launches Live Online amid pandemic**

BY COLLEEN PERRY KEITH, PH.D. AND JANINE G. SORBELLO

“IT WAS HEARTBREAKING to watch our students pack up and leave campus last March when the pandemic broke out,” said Assistant Director of Graduate and International Admissions Kimberly Anderson. “We’re a small college, so we get attached to our students.”

As students moved back home, often to remote locations, the Goldey-Beacom College (GBC) leadership team wasn’t sure what to expect next. Only one thing was certain – the College remained committed to providing access to a high quality, affordable education – and now they had to deliver it by any means necessary.

Like most other colleges, Goldey-Beacom was forced to adapt quickly to COVID-19 guidelines and restrictions. Significant resources were invested to upgrade technology and offer training for faculty to reach their students via the best-suited methods for online instruction. Classes continued uninterrupted, and in most cases, the transition was seamless. In fact, graduate-level instruction was so successful that many students opted to continue with online courses despite the opportunity to return to the classroom.

The online popularity prompted the College to institute an additional method of delivery – Live Online. Beginning in fall 2021, the new Live Online format will be offered entirely for graduate students in two degree programs: the Master of Science in Finance and the Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology.

Live Online is a synchronous format in which a class takes place in a classroom while at the same time appearing virtually for remote students by using Zoom television. “Classes will occur in real time so online students can participate in lectures and discussions with faculty and classmates

who are attending in person,” said Anderson. “It’s important for students to have the option of attending classes on campus or remotely. This way, students living at a distance can complete the program in its entirety without the commute.”

GBC President Colleen Perry Keith said, “We believed early on there was an untapped market, especially for the Live Online format. When students who live much farther than the usual three-hour radius began expressing interest, I knew we were on our way to a new normal. That’s why I’m so pleased to launch these popular degree programs in the fall with a synchronous format. We’ve created a powerful way to reach and engage students both nationally and internationally – and we’re seeing results.”

Whether it is cost driven or location driven, GBC faculty and staff say students are excited to have a choice. Students can still network and experience dynamic engagement with peers and professors through synchronous instruction while achieving their career goals from wherever they live. ■



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