The classification of mandatory personnel who must report to campus to maintain essential activities is a critical decision point for the safety of our campus community and the public. During this process, we have a special responsibility to our undergraduate students. This summer, student housing, classrooms and many campus facilities will be closed, with the expectation that online learning experiences will replace on-campus activities for everyone’s safety.

As a result, undergraduate research cannot be conducted on campus or in other research or field facilities during the Summer 2020 semester. When possible, remote work should be assigned to current undergraduate researchers and UROP students that they can complete at home, such as data management and analysis; literature searches; writing assignments; programming; and creative work. Please contact the Office of Undergraduate Research (our@utah.edu) if you have questions about current (Spring 2020) UROP projects. Applications for Summer UROP projects that can be conducted remotely are currently under review.

We realize that this is a significant constraint for mentors who conduct laboratory, clinical or field research. However, our students’ safety is our highest priority and responsibility, and we hope you can accommodate the need for alternative research training opportunities during these extraordinary circumstances.

We understand this decision is disappointing, and please know that we have not made it lightly. We greatly appreciate everything that you’re doing to provide the highest quality research experiences for our students.

Daniel A. Reed