

## Completing our Fall Semester

Joe Gow <jgow@uwlax.edu>

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Greetings UW-La Crosse students and colleagues,

The leadership team and I are incredibly proud of all you have done to make this semester such a success despite the countless challenges we have overcome together. I'm pleased to share with you this message of encouragement and gratitude as finals week begins tomorrow: <https://youtu.be/ge3bxaYSA0Q>

Additionally, we would like to remind you of the following important items before we move into our winter break:

### **COVID Testing continues:**

Our COVID-19 Surge testing facility will pause operations from 12/24 through 1/3, and then resume them on 1/4. You are all strongly encouraged to take advantage of this free resource prior to and following any holiday travels or gatherings you may be considering. <https://www.uwlax.edu/info/covid-19/testing/>

### **Holiday travel and gatherings:**

Of course, the CDC, local health officials and our area health providers continue to discourage all travel and gatherings outside your household. While many feel there is light at the end of the tunnel, we must not allow ourselves to become complacent in the face of the ongoing pandemic. I encourage you to be a leader in your circle and find creative alternative ways to connect with loved ones.

### **14-day quarantine standard:**

While there are some new guidelines that have been issued at the federal level, our campus policy of 14-day quarantine has not changed. This policy is still considered the gold-standard for safe implementation of quarantine, especially in a population where symptoms are often mild or undetected. We will review this policy again before spring semester begins and appreciate your continued vigilance until then. <https://www.uwlax.edu/info/covid-19/self-quarantine/>

### **Couch Commencement opens 10 a.m., Sunday, 12/20:**

A special congratulations to our graduating seniors and grad students! If you haven't yet, please take a moment to submit your thanks and words of encouragement at <https://share.uwlax.edu/celebration>.

While we continue to grieve the loss of many of the norms we cherish, there is much to be grateful for. I am especially grateful for the tireless work, innovation, problem solving, and the grace with which each of you have approached this semester. Best of luck on finals. Our campus leadership team and I wish you the happiest of holidays and look forward to seeing you again in the new year!

Thanks so much,

Joe

Joe Gow, Chancellor  
University of Wisconsin-La Crosse