



FAQ regarding AOMA Closing at the end of the Winter 2024 Term

What led to the school closure?

Many factors contributed including but not limited to low enrollments in the last few years compared with pre-Pandemic levels, increased expenses after the Pandemic for all services, inability to secure a business/academic partner for AOMA, and the conscious decision to not burden the students with additional increases in tuition and fees. The inability to secure a partnership with a not-for-profit school was driven in part by the U.S. Department of Education's Gainful Employment regulations that will impact virtually every for-profit school, including small schools such as AOMA that operate very similar to a non-profit.

Why the sudden announcement?

Up until the weekend before the announcement, we were still working to prevent closure through new investors for the school. Unfortunately, the investors decided against moving forward.

Why can we not continue at least through the Spring term?

Despite many measures to reduce expenses and generate revenues beyond tuition, our cashflow will not allow us to continue beyond the Winter term. The limited cashflow we have to meet our operating expenses and payroll will only get us through the Winter term.

What does this mean for students close to graduation?

We have secured teach-out agreements with other schools, pending accreditation and regulatory approvals. Academic administration, the transfer committee and Registrar's office will work with each student to determine the best path forward on course completion through AOMA during the winter term, a teach-out arrangement or via transfer. Options and advising will vary depending upon the student's program of enrollment.

What support will be provided to students, faculty, and staff through this transition?

We know this is so difficult and the emotional stress will be high. As we can, we will provide services and resources to assist as we manage through the transition. Through our relationships we will attempt to arrange for volunteer counselors to be available to all in the AOMA community.

For students, we have arranged teach-out agreements with other schools, we will assist with reaching out to landlords if this would be helpful to those who have long term leases in anticipation of staying in Austin, and we will support any student wanting to transfer to another school.

For faculty, we will do what we can to support finding other academic opportunities with other schools.

For staff, we will do what we can to support finding new employment opportunities.