

March 26 Seattle Central College virtual town hall follow up

Questions that we could not answer live during the town hall

Q: My daughter was to begin the running start program spring quarter. The new student orientation link sent to her has an error message pop up when she is asked to verify she is a running start student. How should she attend orientation and then how does she attend her running start classes?

A: We have been registering our students by email, and are looking at options for how to offer that orientation remotely. Running Start classes will be taught like the rest of our spring courses, remotely or by alternative format. We will soon post updates on the Running Start section of our website.

Q: What about the students' tuition for this quarter? Students lose faculty access (MAC), internet, and tech access. Why do we have to pay that much money to study by ourselves?

A: Tuition remains the same, but we are still working with student leadership and other groups about the amounts and extent of student fees.

Q: How will this affect art classes?

A: Art classes, like all other programs that are not restricted to on-site attendance by accreditation, will be taught remotely or through alternative methods.

Q: Is there a strategy for labs that cannot maintain safe distancing? How will those labs be completed? How do we proceed if we cannot comply?

A: Instructors will work out procedures with their students and their supervisors to maintain a safe distance between attendees. Some options could include lab kits to be sent to students, or limiting occupancy in the laboratory spaces.

Q: If an employee or student has let us know that they have tested positive or been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, who do we inform at the College?

A: Please notify your dean or the dean of enrollment services as soon as possible. They will follow up with the employee or student involved, work on quarantine arrangements, and notify others who might have been exposed.

Q: Will Student Support Programs be opened? Including the food pantry?

A: Student Support is working remotely, so the physical office will not be open and the food pantry will not be open. Students in need of food support can contact the pantry program so we can get them connected to community resources

Will vulnerable staff (60+, etc.) be required to come back on the 27?

A: We will be limiting in-person services at the campus to maintain social distance. Employees in vulnerable groups will be encouraged to continue working remotely where possible.

Q: Can students get ORCA/parking permits mailed to them? Will they need to come in person?

A: Under existing procedures, students must pay for and receive ORCA and parking permits through cashiering. For parking permits we can definitely mail them to students ONLY IF students are able to register online. For ORCAs, because they are basically debit cards, we would need students to purchase and obtain in person. We are still looking for ways to handle this requirement while we work with remote and limited onsite services.

Q: I'm worried about our adjunct faculty and their ability to make ends meet this quarter. Will the college commit to NOT cutting classes and lowering class caps? This would allow for more employment opportunities for people in our community. Will the college use emergency funds in this emergency?

A: We are committed to running courses that are part of required sequences or are requirements for degrees and certificates. Given the uncertain enrollment picture for spring, it is likely that we will run course sections with lower enrollment than usual, but we cannot agree in advance not to cut any sections. For instance, a section that is not part of a required sequence or a degree requirement may still be cut if it is particularly low enrolled because the college will have less tuition revenue in the spring to be able to afford to run sections.

Q: Are we considering cancelling/postponing all of our spring public events in order to help our partners to plan and to keep cordial relations with our partners?

A: Any events for spring will align with federal and state mandates regarding distancing, groups, essential services, etc. Individual departments are making their own decisions as this develops.

Q: In the scenario spring quarter on campus classes start but the pandemic exacerbates, will there be expedited processes for emergency withdrawals due to health complications for the virus?

A: We ask instructors to be flexible and work out solutions with students who may have health emergencies as a result of this pandemic.

Q: Will we have access to Academic Excellence Workshops and tutors?

A: Tutoring is still happening, but remotely and by appointment. Contact the BE Learning Center for details.

Q: How does the library help with evening classes?

A: Most library services will be available by email, phone, and chat services, Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Live chat service is available 24 hours a day. Students may make research help appointments with a librarian.

Q: What are we going to do with placement tests, such as the TEAS test required for the Seattle Colleges nursing program?

A: Testing will continue online or under social distance on-site conditions.

If there is a need to go into my office to get materials, do I need a prior permission to enter the college?

A: Until the Governor's stay at home order is lifted, only essential, authorized personnel will be allowed in our campus buildings. After April 7, you will be able to access your office.

Q: For students enrolled at the trade schools, such as Wood Tech and Maritime that are using their G.I. Bill benefits, will there be a way for them to get benefits extended due to them not being able to attend the programs because of closures?

A: We are working with those agencies to protect or extend their benefits. Check back with your program for details.

Q: Will textbooks still be required to purchase for classes?

A: Yes, you will need textbooks. Visit the bookstore site for details.

Q: What will the ongoing sanitation effort by facilities look like between 4/6 and 4/27?

A: We will have custodial staff cleaning any lab or instructional space that is used in the day prior, and they will also be cleaning all bathrooms, common areas and the cashier/admissions area where limited appointments will be held during this time period.

Q: What about the students in Wood tech that didn't get to finish what they needed to do to graduate?

A: We've encouraged instructors and departments to be flexible with students and work out solutions, such as granting an incomplete or grade based on completed work. Contact your instructor to see what can be done for your situation.

Q: When the order lifts, do our instructors have the power to change our classes back to in person?

A: The current plan is for the entire quarter to be delivered remotely or through alternative means, with exceptions for programs with external accreditation requirements.

Q: Would there be a refund for the computer lab fee that required in some classes?

A: We are still working on updates to student fees. Please come back to seattlecentral.edu for future details.

Q: How different is the registration process for waitlisted students if they are offered the space?

A: Wait lists will operate as usual.

Q: What can faculty do for students who do not have internet access at home? And also, will the Fine Arts studios be open for students to work in?

A: We will have limited access to internet resources at the main campus library. The Fine Arts building remains closed to the public.

Q: Can housing insecure students use the school's 1700 Broadway address for mailing books if they use other sources such as Amazon?

A: We are setting up some lockers at 1701 Broadway just outside of the Security Office where students without a home address can pick-up their books, rather than in the bookstore.

Questions answered live via text

Q: Will faculty have access to our offices?

A: Yes, faculty and staff can access their offices after April 7 but should maintain social distance when on campus.

Q: Will I be able to take the math placement test before April 13?

A: Yes, you will be able to take the math placement test completely online

Q: Is that a 5% on top of the 3% budget hit we are taking in July?

A: 5% would include the 3% cut that we were already planning, but the President said that was a minimum -- based on how enrollment for spring really turns out, we may have to make a deeper cut.

Q: What will happen to students who have health and immune compromise conditions which would prevent them from meeting face to face?

A: I would encourage students to work directly with their instructors and/or disability support services so that they will be able to meet course outcomes without F2F attendance, even in programs that still have the F2F component.

Q: When will the updates to the location and notes be available in the course schedule?

A: We are working on updating that information currently -- within the next week it should be completely updated for all programs.

Q: When will spring quarter end?

A: Spring quarter will still end on the currently scheduled last day -- June 19.

Q: We have a legislative mandate to publish all costs of a course when it goes live. Moving one of my courses online will be much better if I add an online resource that would add either \$65 or \$110 to the course. Can the legislative mandate be relaxed and can we add the new expense?

A: You can add the new expense. The mandates to publish costs and to prioritize low cost and totally OER based courses technically must be in place when we convert to our new student information system- ctclink. We are ok for now.

Q: Will students be able to take placement test before April 13? Whether online or person to person?

A: Yes! Math placement can be done totally online. English placement works a little differently but the testing center will have details about how you can do that without coming to campus.

Q: Caps for online classes?

A: Yes. The faculty collective bargaining agreement sets caps for online classes and we have directed instructional divisions to adjust caps down where necessary when we are moving a class to 100% online.

Q: Culinary school is saying they will have face to face classes from 13 but you stated the BE buildings would be closed to the 27?

A: Students who are enrolled in courses where there is mandatory face-to-face instruction starting Week 1 when the quarter starts will definitely be able to get in the building-- they'll just have to use the front door.

Q: Understandably, we've moved to online modes of instruction. For some students, this may prove difficult for a variety of reasons. Will there be consideration to extend the withdrawal (100% refund) date?

A: Yes, we are absolutely using the waiver and petition for exception policies to allow people to withdraw and receive refunds even after traditional deadlines. The Registrar's office has policies that can accommodate this.

Q: Does that include the final quarter for Specialty Desserts?

A: Yes!

Q: Is it ok to reassure our international students that the face-to- face classes will be taught online for the entire quarter? I have had international students ask, since they wish to, or have to stay in their home country at this point, but still like to take the course

A: Yes. that is exactly the right message to give them. Thanks!

