



PennState
College of Nursing

Message From the Dean

Dean's Message to Students for Wednesday March 18, 2020

Dear Students:

First, let me start by telling you that the pace of our response to the virus and the rapidly evolving landscape has been challenging and there is no one who is not stressed by what is happening. At the same time, the response to challenges by our faculty, staff, and students has been nothing less than extraordinary! On Monday, our first day of remote learning across our University, over 350 classes were held. With only a few bumps and bruises, we changed our delivery method and continued to provide education at the level of excellence. Again, I need to say that you are the best students. As a College, we have taken our College of Nursing vision, mission, and values to new heights. Together, we are demonstrating leadership, excellence, and innovation in these unprecedented times. Thank you for what you did to make this happen.

As expected, the University is making additional changes to meet the new guidance by the CDC, the Pennsylvania Governor, and the President of the United States.

New important information for you:

Our University will now extend remote learning through the remainder of our academic year.

College of Nursing response for Undergraduate students:

1. We will continue all remote learning (classroom and clinical) started earlier this week for the remainder of the semester.
2. We will suspend our continuation of all Senior Capstone Clinicals beginning at 11 p.m. tonight. Placements for senior capstone students have trended downward as our clinical partners began planning for COVID 19 patients and have asked for our cooperation. Our peer institutions in the Big 10 and PHENSA (Pennsylvania nursing) are experiencing similar requests.
3. We will move the completion of those clinical hours to remote learning with all other clinical experiences on Monday March 23, 2020. For all students who have not completed their capstone hours, there is no risk to student graduation associated with this change. Neither our accrediting organization nor the PA Board of Nursing mandate the number of direct clinical hours required for BSN graduation. We will prepare the necessary letter and submit our changes to the PA Board of Nursing as we would with any program change. The good news is the majority of students were near completion and those who did not complete

- those hours will complete the clinical course objectives through remote faculty led clinical assignments using unfolding case studies and all the technology and virtual teaching learning tools available to us.
4. With this latest announcement we encourage our Senior students who continued capstone assignments over break or who may have returned for capstone clinical hours to consider returning home for the remainder of the semester.
 5. Currently Penn State University is planning to return to normal operations in the Fall.

College of Nursing response for Graduate students:

1. We are continuing to support all graduate students in clinical placements completing clinical hours. We are monitoring the guidance being issued by our accrediting and credentialing agencies. To date, most graduate students have been allowed to continue direct clinical hours. A few students who have not been able to continue due to agency requests, have been able to work with faculty and program directors to shift to other placements. We will continue to follow this evolving situation. This continues to be the trajectory of many of our peer institutions. We are both in communication with our Big 10 nursing peers and our PHENSA (Pennsylvania nursing) peers concerning graduate direct clinical hour requirements.
2. All other coursework for graduate students is occurring remotely.
3. DNP and PhD presentations and dissertations can be completed without on campus or face-to-face meetings and faculty should follow the guidance provided by the graduate school.

Additional information for students from Provost Directives:

1. All non-essential meetings should be cancelled, rescheduled, or offered virtually until May 15. Any essential meeting with more than 10 participants must be approved by the Provost.
2. Graduation as we know it will not take place. We are waiting for further direction from the University on how we will recognize our graduating students.
3. Phishing email scammers continue. Be wary of emails that request phone numbers or credit card purchases. Look at the emails—the are generally intended to fool you but most are Gmail or other accounts tacked on the at psu.edu address. Please report them. The first phishing email came report in our college came from a psu.edu@gmail address.

Additional information for all Students:

1. Continue to follow messaging daily from the University, College, Associate Deans, Program Directors, and most important from your course faculty.
2. Continue with synchronous remote learning, let faculty know what issues you are facing.
3. Continue to share problems and concerns with appropriate Program Directors, Associate Deans, Assistant Deans, and the Dean.
4. Continue to report self-quarantine, exposures, and other relevant information to Assistant Dean for Outreach Kelly Wolgast (kaw466@psu.edu) or the Dean (lab340@psu.edu).
5. Another update will be provided on Monday March 23, 2020 or sooner if needed.

And finally, a bit of humor.....

1. The Provost's new favorite expression is Good Grief! It is contagious, I find myself saying it.
2. The Provost was quoted as saying he has used so much hand-sanitizer he is feeling intoxicated.
3. And your Dean is feeling very special because it is evident that We are...All in this Together!

Thank you for being the best students and demonstrating amazing fortitude.

We Are...Penn State Nursing.

Be well,
Dean Laurie