

**Subject:** Important Remote Updates and Questions Answered – Dec. 16, 2020  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 10:24:07 PM

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Greetings!

I hope you find these weekly emails to be helpful and informative. You remain our top priority, and we want to answer your questions and provide information regularly throughout this disruptive period. These weekly emails will resume on Jan. 20, 2021.

In a continued effort to protect your health and safety during the global coronavirus pandemic, we will provide remote instruction and services and virtual learning for the spring and summer 2021 semesters. Specifically, **the five campuses will remain closed to the majority of HACC students and employees until Aug. 12, 2021.** A select group of students and employees will be allowed on the campuses to complete hands-on components of some of their classes.

No one could have ever anticipated that we would still be affected by this global pandemic. I know that it has not been easy to juggle family, school and work responsibilities while maintaining your and your family's well-being, and your feelings are valid. Please be assured that your health and safety are at the forefront of our decisions.

We can do this, and we are truly stronger together. Your positive spirit and determination are admirable, and I am #HACCproud of each of you! Keep soaring, Hawks!

We will continue to communicate about this situation and update [hacc.edu/Coronavirus](https://hacc.edu/Coronavirus).

As you have come to expect, following are the commonly asked questions and our responses to them. Please note that some of these responses are tentative and subject to change.

If you have additional questions and you do not see the answers on the [website](#), please submit the online form located on the website. Please see the webpage section called "Information for Students."

We will continue to update you regularly via email and the aforementioned website.

*Thank you and happy holidays!*

John J. "Ski" Sygielski, MBA, Ed.D.

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**1. The holiday season is tough for my family. Do you have any upcoming “Groceries on the Go” program pick-up days scheduled?**

Our priority remains you, our students, and we're here to help ensure you succeed.

Thanks to the support of the HACC Foundation, the next grocery pick up is **this week**. HACC students can present their student ID or current class schedule to receive a free bag of groceries valued at \$10 from participating local supermarkets.

Grocery bags are available first come, first served while supplies last. For more information (including the date, time and list of participating supermarkets), please visit [hacc.edu/groceries](http://hacc.edu/groceries).

**2. Could you please let me know how graduating students were notified about the virtual Commencement [ceremony](#)?**

Following is the timeline of when communications were sent to students about participation in the fall 2020 virtual Commencement ceremony:

- [March 25, 2020](#): Dr. Ski informed spring 2020 graduates that they would be invited to the fall 2020 ceremony.
- April 9, 2020: Spring 2020 graduates were invited to attend the fall 2020 virtual Commencement ceremony via email.
- [May 5, 2020](#): Students were reminded via a weekly coronavirus email that they can participate in the ceremony.
- [July 16, 2020](#): Students were informed the fall 2020 Commencement ceremony would be held virtually.
- [July 30, 2020](#): Students were provided additional ceremony details.
- [Sept. 30, 2020](#): An additional reminder was included in the weekly email to students.
- Oct. 8, 2020: An invitation to participate in the fall 2020 virtual Commencement ceremony was sent to spring and fall students via their HAWKmail and personal emails.
- Oct. 23, 2020: A reminder alert was posted on the myHACC portal.
- Oct. 23, 2020: An additional reminder email inviting students to participate in Commencement was distributed.
- [Oct. 28, 2020](#): A reminder about the ceremony was included in the weekly email to students.
- [Dec. 2, 2020](#): Additional information was included in the weekly coronavirus email.
- Dec. 8, 2020: An email was distributed to all fall 2020 graduates.
- Dec. 8, 2020: An email was distributed to those who indicated they would be attending the virtual ceremony.

Multiple social media posts about the ceremony were also shared across the College's social media platforms.

Please email the Office of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management at [Commencement@hacc.edu](mailto:Commencement@hacc.edu) with any additional questions.

- 3. Representing many students, some who attend HACC and some who attend other colleges in our region, I don't understand why HACC students have to pay lab fees, especially since our labs are offered remotely. Would the College think about suspending those charges until the pandemic is over and we are back on campus? Someone told me CARES Act money may be available. If you are unwilling to forgive or reduce the amount, please explain specifically what I am paying for. Also, HACC does a great job in communicating with students - much better than other colleges, my friends tell me.**

Thanks for the kudos on communication.

Please see the response to item #82 [in this document](#) for details on our fees and what they cover.

[CARES Act funding](#) was awarded to the College, and the guidance provided by the U.S. Department of Education stated that the funding was to be used to support the disruption caused by the pandemic. The College has incurred additional expenses with the shift to remote learning, including additional instructional supplies to support students completing lab work at home and the expansion of online services such as tutoring and test proctoring. The College has been using CARES Act funds to support those expenses and avoid passing the additional costs onto our students.

- 4. I have never liked online classes and never voluntarily chose them. Now that I have no choice, why should I stay at HACC instead of transferring to a school with a much better track record for online learning as well as condensed semesters so I can complete sooner? Literally the only reason I was here is because it's close and in person.**

HACC has adapted to the coronavirus pandemic through remote instruction, where classes meet via Zoom at specific times every week. Remote classes align with our typical on-campus offerings, provide the structure that some students need and allow for the real-time interaction that builds a sense of community. HACC has dedicated faculty, many of whom bring their experience in the field to the class. HACC is affordable, and [HACC scholarships](#) can help make classes even more within reach.

- 5. I am beyond impressed by how understanding and flexible my professors were this semester in light of everything happening with COVID-19. Where can I send thank-you notes?**

Thank you for your feedback. While you can simply email the professor, you may

also want to copy the appropriate school dean on your note of thanks. The list of deans follows:

- Dr. Jennifer Baar, School of Business, Technology and Industry, [jnbaar@hacc.edu](mailto:jnbaar@hacc.edu)
- Ms. Leslie Boon, School of Liberal Arts, [lmboon@hacc.edu](mailto:lmboon@hacc.edu)
- Mr. Mike Corradino, School of Science and Math, [mccorrad@hacc.edu](mailto:mccorrad@hacc.edu)
- Ms. Dory Uhlman, School of Health Science, [dsuhlman@hacc.edu](mailto:dsuhlman@hacc.edu)

If you are not sure who your dean is, please contact Kathy Doherty, Ph.D., associate provost, at [ktdohert@hacc.edu](mailto:ktdohert@hacc.edu).

6. **I registered for a Math 202 class in fall 2020 with one professor. When classes started, the professor was changed. I ended up dropping the class because the teaching style of the professor was not the best for me. I am again registered for Math 202 in the spring, and I hope the same thing doesn't happen.**

For a variety of reasons, we may need to change faculty members. Sometimes, individuals leave their position at the College, or we need to change teaching assignments. We do not want to cancel a class that students may need to graduate, so we provide another qualified individual to teach.

7. **All grades should be posted on D2L right? One of my professors is saying the grades on D2L won't be exactly what will be posted as our final grades. I'm concerned by this because what happens if the final grades would be lower than what's on D2L?**

If you have a concern about the grades in your class, please contact your school dean:

- Dr. Jennifer Baar, School of Business, Technology and Industry, [jnbaar@hacc.edu](mailto:jnbaar@hacc.edu)
- Ms. Leslie Boon, School of Liberal Arts, [lmboon@hacc.edu](mailto:lmboon@hacc.edu)
- Mr. Mike Corradino, School of Science and Math, [mccorrad@hacc.edu](mailto:mccorrad@hacc.edu)
- Ms. Dory Uhlman, School of Health Science, [dsuhlman@hacc.edu](mailto:dsuhlman@hacc.edu)

If you are not sure who your dean is, please contact Kathy Doherty, Ph.D., associate provost, at [ktdohert@hacc.edu](mailto:ktdohert@hacc.edu).

8. **In the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, neck gaiters could be worn but then were deemed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as not appropriate to wear in stopping droplets. In following CDC recommendations, HACC said neck gaiters cannot be worn as a face covering while on campus.**

**Since then, the CDC did a study and has changed its recommendations about**

**the effectiveness of wearing neck gaiters when they have multiple layers. Please see this [link](#) to an article about the CDC study and neck gaiter effectiveness.**

**Has HACC considered changing its position on the wearing of neck gaiters, especially for those working in the Facilities and Ground Department?**

**Thank you in advance for your response.**

Yes, neck gaiters may be worn only if they have two layers. If not, the neck gaiters must be doubled over. Please see this [link](#) for more information.

**9. When will the 2020 Annual Security Report be available? I thought it had to be published by Oct. 1?**

HACC, Central Pennsylvania's Community College, is required by the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act (20 USC § 1092(f)) to publish an annual security report by Oct. 1 of each calendar year. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the deadline to publish the 2020 annual security report was extended to Dec. 31, 2020. This report contains three years of campus crime statistics for incidents that occurred on a HACC campus, in unobstructed public areas immediately adjacent to or running through a campus and at certain non-campus facilities owned or controlled by the College.

Also included in the report are policy and procedure disclosures for emergency response, the reporting of crime, investigative and disciplinary procedures for rape, sexual assault/misconduct and drug and alcohol control, among others.

This report is now available on HACC's website at [www.hacc.edu/AboutHACC/PublicSafetyandSecurity/upload/HACC-ASR.pdf](http://www.hacc.edu/AboutHACC/PublicSafetyandSecurity/upload/HACC-ASR.pdf).

**10. Do you have an update regarding the student counseling and employee assistance program (EAP) request for proposal (RFP) process?**

The RFP process for student counseling and the employee EAP has been completed. The College is now engaged in finalizing contract details. We will share additional information in January 2021.

[hacc.edu](http://hacc.edu)



800-ABC-HACC

HACC recognizes its responsibility to promote the principles of inclusion and equal opportunity in employment and education. Therefore, it is the policy of HACC, in full accordance with the law, not to discriminate in recruitment,

**employment, student admissions, and student services on the basis of race, color, religion, age, political affiliation or belief, gender, national origin, ancestry, disability (physical or intellectual based challenges), place of birth, General Education Development Certification (GED), marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, veteran status, genetic history/information, or any other legally protected classification. Inquiries should be directed to the Office of the President, One HACC Drive, Harrisburg, Pa. 17110, telephone 717-736-4100.**