

Subject: Important Remote Updates and Questions Answered – Dec. 2, 2020
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Greetings!

I hope that you had a restful and safe Thanksgiving break. The end of the fall 2020 semester and the end of this calendar year are in our sights. Let's do our best to finish strong!

One thing we can all look forward to is our [virtual Commencement ceremony](#) on Dec. 15, 2020, which will begin at 6 p.m. During this celebratory event, we will recognize our spring and summer 2020 graduates, as well as those who are eligible to graduate in fall 2020. This is sure to be an exciting and uplifting occasion. I hope you can attend it!

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!

John J. "Ski" Sygielski, MBA, Ed.D.
President & CEO
HACC, Central Pennsylvania's Community College

- 1. I am a nursing student. I earned my LPN certificate in a tech school. I will tell you that I learned so very much from our lab time in that program! I have learned minimal skills in this program and cannot believe the amount of money I am paying for this! If we were able to gather in small groups to "check off/test out" on critical clinical skills, there should be a way to gather in**

small groups to have at least two days in the lab to practice skills! We have zero opportunities to practice any skills before we go to a facility and have to do it with a real patient. I detest this way of learning and think it is inappropriate to expect student nurses to perform skills at clinical that we have not been able to perform even one time in a lab to practice. Why can't we meet in the lab in the same small groups where we have an opportunity to ask questions as we practice new skills?!

The College understands your frustration with the process. Please understand that we take nursing education very seriously. Most of the skills that had been taught on campus were taught in the first courses in the program, NURS 140 and NURS 141, and they would have been covered in the LPN program.

Students transitioning from LPN to RN have their skills validated, but these skills are not re-taught. Additional skills covered in later classes can be taught remotely and should have been part of the LPN clinical experience. LPNs who transition into our program are expected to validate the skills they learned, performed and tested in their LPN program.

In the following courses, these skills are being validated:

- NURS150: Wound Packing (NOT critical), concepts covered remotely (an LPN should already possess this skill)
- NURS151: Nasogastric (NG) tube insertion and removal, also documented remotely (an LPN should already possess this skill) and Intravenous Piggyback (IVPB) meds (learning concepts remotely, students come to lab for formative validation; an LPN should already possess this skill)
- NURS250: Intravenous (IV) Push through a central line (all concepts learned and practiced at bedside in NURS151 with peripheral lines, now being applied to a central line); Central Venous Catheter (CVC) dressings are being taught and documented remotely (most institutions require them to go through training when hired), so it is not necessary to do face-to-face; and the concept of sterility can be done remotely.
- NURS251: Endotracheal tube (ET)/Trach Suctioning: validated on site, and performed on real patients.

While this is not our previous normal, this is the new normal. All of our partner hiring institutions have changed their onboarding and mentorship to assure you will be on target once you are hired.

- 2. I am graduating in December and only my name will be shown due to a mistake; however, I have several family members who have completed the form to show their support and congratulatory messages. Will these still be shown? If so, how will I know if it is just my name being shown at the end in a list with everyone else's?**

Congratulations on your upcoming graduation! #HACCproud

The messages submitted by families, friends and supporters will be displayed

throughout the ceremony. When supporters submitted the online form, they were asked to provide the full names of their graduating students. Therefore, if provided, the graduating students' names will be displayed with the appropriate congratulatory messages.

Please contact Commencement@hacc.edu if you have additional Commencement questions.

3. Could you please share more information about the virtual Commencement ceremony in December?

HACC's first-ever [virtual Commencement ceremony](#) will be held on Dec. 15.

To virtually celebrate, please:

1. Tune in to the virtual ceremony at 6 p.m.
2. Share YOUR excitement on social media and [tag HACC](#) in your post
3. Use #HACCproud and #HACCgraduate in your post

Please continue to check our Commencement [website](#) for updated information.

4. Is all instruction for the spring 2021 semester guaranteed to stay online the entire semester? Will this change at all during the spring semester, and will students have a choice whether they want to go back to campus?

Instruction will remain remote for the entire spring 2021 semester, with the exception of required hands-on labs. Please read more about the details on our website: www.hacc.edu/Resources/fall-2020-announcement.cfm

5. Can I play esports at HACC?

New HACC Esports gaming teams are gearing up for the spring 2021 semester. HACC will participate in the [National Junior College Athletic Association Esports \(NJCAA\)](#) on an intercollegiate level in three games during spring 2021. Top games currently are Rocket League, Super Smash Brothers, League of Legends, Overwatch and CS: GO. Additional esports tournaments will be offered for students who are not interested in participating in the intercollegiate level. For more information, please contact Lisa Cleveland at laclevel@hacc.edu.

6. How do I get support for mental health and counseling?

If you are struggling with anxiety, depression or a sense of feeling overwhelmed, please contact our counseling partners at Mazzitti & Sullivan EAP Services. They are available 24/7 to offer support over the phone, online or in person. Mazzitti & Sullivan EAP Services and its many partners have offices throughout the region. Currently-enrolled credit students are provided with up to three free counseling sessions per semester.

Please choose any of the following options to access these services:

Phone Options:

- Call 800-543-5080 to speak to someone 24/7 or to schedule an appointment
- Call 855-264-3248 if you use TeleTYpe (TTY)/Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD)

Online Option:

- Go to mseap.com/get-started
- Click on “Contact Us” and fill out the form as an “employee”
- Type in “HACC Student” in the “Employer Name” field
- Complete the form
- Click the “Contact Us” button at the bottom of the page
- Expect your message to be returned by the next business day

Additional Online Materials:

- Go to mseap.com
- Click on “Member Login”
- Enter “HACCSTU” in the sign-in section
- Browse materials related to mental health, emotional well-being, financial wellness and more

HACC makes these services available at no cost to students.

Please use these important services if you need them. Please also visit our webpage at www.hacc.edu/mentalhealth for more resources.

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.
