

**Subject:**  
**Date:**

Important Remote Updates and Questions Answered – Dec. 9, 2020  
Wednesday, December 9, 2020 5:03:07 PM

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Greetings!

I wish you the best of luck this week as you take final exams and finish out the fall 2020 semester. You made it!

We value your feedback about HACC's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. By Dec. 18, **please complete a brief survey** to tell us how we did this fall and what we can do better. The survey should take no more than 15 minutes, and your responses will be anonymous. Thank you for your participation!

All students are also welcome to share feedback with me and other colleagues during a special Zoom session on Dec. 15. Details are below:

- **Date and Time:** Dec. 15, 2020; 3 p.m.
- **[Zoom information is redacted for security purposes.]**
- **Notes:** Please log in at least five minutes before the session begins. The
- Zoom meeting will be closed to new participants at the start of the session.
- You may use the chat feature to ask questions, and HACC employees and I will respond.

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

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1. **Can you please remind me of how the College will handle weather announcements during the COVID-19 pandemic? If there are delays or closures for HACC campuses, will that affect remote instruction, virtual learning classes and remote working?**

If there is a weather announcement regarding campus closures, it will *only* affect employees and students approved to be on campus. All other remote work, remote instruction and virtual learning classes will continue as scheduled.

We will communicate directly to the students and employees who are approved to be on a HACC campus. Therefore, we will not distribute a collegewide e2Campus message. In addition, we will not notify the local media.

Instead, we will:

- Update the [HACC website](#)
- Send an email to employees who are approved to be on campus
- Send an email to students who are approved to be on campus
- Post an announcement to the collegewide [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) accounts

Please see the “Weather Announcement Process During COVID-19” menu on [hacc.edu/Weather](http://hacc.edu/Weather) for more information.

2. **What are the on-campus masking requirements for HACC students and employees?**

*Anyone* approved to be on a HACC campus is *required* to wear a mask that completely covers their nose and mouth at all times while on campus. This includes driving up to the wellness screening stations, in the classroom and all indoor and outdoor common areas. HACC supports the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) updated mask [recommendations](#).

Wearing a mask, social distancing, sanitizing and hand washing will help to keep our HACC community as safe as possible. Although we can never assure safety from this virus, we must be vigilant and do our part.

3. **The HACC payment plan is nearly impossible to work with as a full-time student paying for their own schooling. My financial aid has never covered all of my expenses, and therefore I am forced to pay a lot of money out of pocket for each semester. Without sufficient financial aid, I would not be able to afford the only option of three set payments that the HACC payment plan**

**requires. On top of that, you have to pay \$30 to enroll in the payment plan. Why?**

**Additionally, I think that HACC needs to be more transparent with students and send out an itemized list of expenses each semester so that we know exactly where our tuition is going and why. Right now, using Zoom the way that we are and participating in classes with the way that they are does not feel worth the amount that I pay for tuition.**

**My student invoice also does not tell me exactly what each class costs, and lists course fees without saying what kind of course fees they are. Why not charge each student a small amount for course fees instead of hundreds of dollars per semester sometimes?**

HACC currently offers students a payment plan that charges three equal payments at 0% interest. The purpose of the payment plan is to assist students with spreading out the costs of their education or to resolve an outstanding balance. The College charges an administration fee of \$30 to cover the costs of processing the payment plan.

HACC provides itemized tuition and fees on each student's account. Fees are charged and displayed by each course and can be accessed by navigating to [my.hacc.edu](http://my.hacc.edu) > Student > Registration/Records > Student Accounts/Bill Information > View Student Invoice and Schedule.

Course fees are based on the specific course and used by the College to help defray the overall annual costs associated with offering these classes. This includes the maintenance of equipment and supplies, implementation of safety protocols and direct costs. With remote instruction, faculty are still providing a lab experience for students and some courses have additional supplies needed. Thus, the College is still incurring the costs.

**4. I heard that the Pennsylvania Department of Health will be distributing COVID-19 vaccinations on the Harrisburg and York campuses of HACC. Can you please tell me more about this?**

HACC is honored to be included as a site for COVID-19 vaccination distribution. The Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) is managing the entire process. This is not a HACC event.

We will be given limited notice of when these events will occur.

To limit the possibility of any COVID-19 exposure for our students and employees, and out of respect for DOH, on the dates of distribution, we will close the portion of each campus where the vaccines will be distributed. If you are a student or essential worker approved to be on a HACC campus and your work or class schedules are affected by this event, you will be notified via email.

**Please note:** The vaccine is not for public access at this point in time. It is for a specific subgroup of individuals determined by DOH. Unless invited by DOH, you

are not authorized to access the vaccination distribution site.

5. **With all classes being remote, there are fewer seats available for biology courses, which means a lot of students are on the waitlist for classes they need to be able to get into the Nursing Program. Will there be a change in the allotted number of students in a class so students are not left on a waitlist?**

**My issue is there not being enough evening courses to accommodate students who work during the day (biology courses to be specific).**

We have limited class size to promote effective instruction in a remote environment. Biology classes with a lab are limited to 24 students. We are monitoring enrollments and adding new sections as we are able. We do have seats available in evening sections and recently opened a Saturday class based on feedback from our advisors. As we add sections, we email students on waitlists to alert them to the new availability.

We recommend that you continue to use the waitlist function and monitor the course schedule regularly to look for new sections.

6. **I love the holiday season. However, preparing for the season can get pricey. Do you have any suggestions?**

We know the holidays are a time of giving. We also know buying gifts and preparing can get pricey. The webinar, "[Holiday Shopping: Part 1](#)," provided by PSECU, offers details on how you can plan ahead and do your research. It also provides tips and tricks that can help you save on holiday shopping. You can also access part two of the webinar series using the same link.

PSECU's Financial Education Center at HACC is available for virtual office hours by phone or Zoom. Please contact Jennifer Nicrone, PSECU community manager, at [jnicrone@psecu.com](mailto:jnicrone@psecu.com) to schedule an appointment.

Please **do not** include personal information (such as your bank account number and social security number) in your email message.

7. **How do I return my fall textbook rentals?**

If you rented textbooks for the fall 2020 semester, they are due by Jan. 8, 2021.

To return your books, please:

- Visit a HACC campus on Dec. 14, 2020, from 9 a.m. to noon or Jan. 8, 2021, from noon to 3 p.m. The designated area for textbook drop-off, campus maps and protocol for visiting campuses during the pandemic are available at [www.bookstore.hacc.edu](http://www.bookstore.hacc.edu). Please choose the campus that you plan to visit.
- If neither of these days or times work for you, Gettysburg, Harrisburg,

Lancaster and York campuses' drop boxes can be accessed 24/7.

- Email [bookstore@hacc.edu](mailto:bookstore@hacc.edu) to arrange to return your rentals via FedEx if a drop-off does not work for you.

If your rentals are not returned by Jan. 8, 2021, you will be charged the replacement and processing fees that were printed on your sales receipt at the time of purchase.

If you have any questions or wish to purchase your rental, please email [bookstore@hacc.edu](mailto:bookstore@hacc.edu).

To sell a non-rental textbook, please visit [www.bookstore.hacc.edu](http://www.bookstore.hacc.edu)

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



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