

Subject: Important Remote Updates and Questions Answered – Nov. 4, 2020
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Greetings!

Although we do not yet know the results of yesterday's election, we are experiencing democracy at work. Whatever the outcome of the election, HACC is here for you. Please remember to continue to engage in self-care and reach out for [support](#) if you need 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. How do I find my academic advisor?

To find your academic advisor, please:

- Log in to YOUR [myHACC](#) portal. Look at the top right corner under "Academic Standing Information."
- Hover over the box and click. Here you will find the name, email address and telephone number of your academic advisor.

You may also view this [video](#) for additional instructions.

2. **Will all the science classes be totally virtual?**

All biology classes will be offered completely remotely. The following science classes will have select on-campus lab experiences: CHEM 101, CHEM 102, CHEM 203, CHEM 204, PHYS 202 and PHYS 212.

3. **I feel that it should not be necessary for students to have to turn on their webcam at home. Some instructors ask us to turn it on for basically no reason. I understand they want to know if we are actually there, but there's really no need for it when they can call on us, and we can answer through the microphone.**

Unless it is required for an assignment or an exam, students are not required to have their webcams turned on.

4. **I support the College's focus on inclusion and diversity. I truly believe that when everyone is included and feels a sense of belonging, we ALL benefit. I also appreciate your recent email about Black students and employees. Some people believe that your email means that non-Black students and employees should not receive the same treatment and empathy as Black students and employees. Could you please clarify what you mean?**

HACC's greatest strength is the care we demonstrate for our students and employees. For example, whether our students or employees are single parents, possess learning disabilities, are transgendered or hail from other countries, we make them a top priority.

All of HACC's students and employees are important to us all of the time. However, at this time, our Black students and employees and other students and employees of color are experiencing systemic racially-based and ethnically-based trauma. White students and employees are not. The primary point of my message was to remind members of the HACC community that we should demonstrate kindness to one another – even if we do not understand the struggles that someone else is facing.

Any non-Black student and employee who is experiencing trauma – now or later – will be provided the same opportunities, treatment and empathy as Black students and employees and other students and employees of color. This has been the case since I was hired as HACC's president in 2011.

For example:

- Students who are homeless have been cared for by HACC employees and offered flexibility with their course work.
- Students who did not have easy access to technology when we first went remote were cared for by HACC employees and offered flexibility with their course work.
- Students who have experienced death in their families have been cared for by HACC employees and offered flexibility with their course work.

- Students who have suffered from heightened anxiety as a result of the pandemic have been cared for by HACC employees and offered flexibility with their course work.
- Students who have tested positive for COVID-19 have been cared for by HACC employees and offered flexibility with their course work.

All of this was done because these students needed and deserved our help. This type of flexibility did not occur as a result of the pandemic – we have demonstrated this for as long as I have been president at HACC. However, we have been reminding all students of our flexibility *more often* due to the challenging times in which we live.

Reminding a group of people of something that has always existed does *not* mean that we are excluding others. In addition, reminding a group of people of something that has always existed does *not* mean that we are taking something from another group of people.

Thank you for seeking clarification.

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.