

**Subject:** Update on HACC's Instruction and Student Services Planning – May 5, 2021  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 5, 2021 8:09:18 PM

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Good evening, colleagues!

Congratulations on arriving at the end of another semester! You have continued to demonstrate flexibility, compassion and innovation while dealing with the coronavirus pandemic, racial unrest, economic uncertainty and more. **THANK YOU!** I know it has not been an easy semester, but I hope that it has been a rewarding one for you and our students.

Next week, we will celebrate students who are eligible to graduate in spring and summer 2021. Please join us on May 13 at 6 p.m. for our virtual Commencement ceremony! Details are available at [bit.ly/HACCspring21](http://bit.ly/HACCspring21).

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 Employees](#)." If you would like to see the information being communicated to students, please see the webpage called "[Information for Students](#)."

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

Thank you!

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

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**1. Since we are opening the campuses earlier than expected, why can't we have an in-person Commencement ceremony?**

First, congratulations to all students who will be graduating. Earning a HACC degree, certificate or diploma is something to be extremely proud of.

We wish that we could celebrate graduating students in person. However, the safety of our HACC community remains our top priority. Please tune in to our [virtual celebration](#) on May 13 so that we can recognize our students' remarkable achievements.

**2. I heard that faculty are now required to be in compliance with PA Act 15 in order to teach at HACC. Is that true?**

Yes. Since 2017, HACC has required all teaching faculty to obtain the clearances and mandated reporter training certificate as stipulated by [PA Act 15](#) (also known as Child Protective Services Law).

The law no longer allows for provisional hiring. All who are required to comply with PA Act 15 must have current clearances in place by their assigned start date. Please note that some staff positions are also required to obtain the clearances.

Please click [here](#) for information on obtaining the clearances and email [hr@hacc.edu](mailto:hr@hacc.edu) if you have questions.

**3. I read the FAQs in the April Ski Gram about the annual performance appraisal process for employees. There was a section on the external feedback process. Is the external feedback still part of the evaluation process?**

The external review capability was disabled on April 14, 2021, due to technological challenges with PageUp. The vendor was asked to resolve the problem but was unable to do so. Therefore, this year, external reviews will NOT be part of the performance appraisal process.

**4. I heard the Employee Recognition Committee is recognizing full- and part-time employees with a discount at the bookstore. Is there more information available?**

To celebrate our employees, the HACC Employee Recognition Committee, in partnership with HACC's bookstore, will be providing each employee an additional \$5 off one online order for HACC-imprinted clothing or gifts May 7-14, 2021. Please use the code HACCEMP at [bookstore.hacc.edu](http://bookstore.hacc.edu) to receive 15% off your order. You will also receive an additional \$5 off and free shipping!

No additional discounts apply. Some exclusions apply, including Student Nursing Organization merchandise and regalia.

**5. Do health careers students have to be vaccinated for COVID-19 in order to participate in clinicals?**

HACC does not require students or employees to be vaccinated at this time. Some clinical sites are requiring vaccinations. Please visit [hacc.edu/HealthCareersUpdate](http://hacc.edu/HealthCareersUpdate)

**Quote:** *Until you spread your wings, you'll have no idea how far you can fly. ~author unknown*