

Subject: Your Coronavirus Preparedness Questions Answered – June 16, 2020
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Greetings!

After reviewing federal and state guidelines, recommendations from the College's COVID-19 Task Force and listening to feedback from YOU, HACC has decided to provide most classes online through remote instruction and virtual learning for the fall 2020 semester. The exception will be the hands-on/experiential components of select, approved courses. Please visit [this webpage](#) for more details.

This decision was made with your safety and well-being in mind. Please rest assured that whether you take all of your classes online or come to campus for hands-on components, we are ready!

As a reminder, HACC and PSECU have partnered to host a FREE virtual event for HACC supporters. The event, "A Virtual Chat on All Things Money with PSECU," will be held June 23 at 3 p.m. For more information, please visit our [online newsroom](#).

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.
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HACC, Central Pennsylvania's Community College

- 1. When is the fall certificate of residency due? I have attempted to apply online,**

but the form doesn't give an option for fall 2020.

Certain school districts will pay a portion of your tuition if you live in their school district. There are 22 school districts participating in this program with HACC. These school districts are "sponsoring school districts."

Any resident – of any age – in the sponsoring school districts may receive the special tuition rates.

Residency certificates are issued directly by school districts, and they are due to HACC by the tuition due date for the respective term. Historically, school districts have made residency certificates for the fall semester available after July 1. [Please contact the school district directly](#) to obtain a residency certificate.

- 2. Please provide information on the “HEROES Act” distributions. Who will receive funds and when? Many colleges have distributed their money to students.**

The “Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions Act” or the “HEROES Act” was passed by the House of Representatives in May 2020. As written, the “HEROES Act” does not include provisions that provide money to students. The “HEROES Act” has since moved to the Senate for a vote. However, as of June 11, 2020, the Senate has not taken any action on the “HEROES Act.”

- 3. When will we be receiving our portion of the CARES Act money that was distributed to HACC? I have deferred everything I could to make ends meet and have run out of resources. Help!**

Details regarding when and how HACC will distribute [Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security](#) (CARES) Act monies are available at hacc.edu/CARESact.

- 4. How can I continue in the Nursing Program if all of our classes will be remote? Will we have opportunities for on-campus labs or clinical experiences?**

Nursing students will come to a campus to complete hands-on skills components of classes needed to meet spring 2021 graduation requirements.

We will support clinical placements on a prioritized basis if our clinical partners permit students to participate.

- 5. How were the on-campus, hands-on courses selected for the fall 2020 semester?**

On-campus labs were scheduled for programs that require students to demonstrate skills in a lab environment. These skills cannot be demonstrated via online labs or simulations. We are still working with faculty on details of these lab experiences.

6. **I do not understand the differences between “remote instruction” and “virtual learning.” Please explain the differences.**

Remote instruction is the replacement for in-person instruction during the current situation. Using [Zoom](#), faculty meet with students during scheduled class times. While we were flexible about attendance because of the sudden change in situation for the spring semester, students and faculty will be expected to attend all scheduled class meetings via Zoom in the summer and fall. If you are unable to attend scheduled class meetings, you may want to consider virtual learning classes.

Virtual learning is a selection of online classes that typically do not have a scheduled time when students and faculty meet. Online coursework is not exclusively self-taught or self-paced, but as long as due dates are met, students' work can be done on various days and times.

7. **Since the classes are going to be remote now for the fall semester, can we switch classes if we already picked them for the fall?**

As with any semester, students are free to drop and add courses through [myHACC](#) up until the start of classes. Students are reminded of the importance of working with an academic advisor and financial aid to ensure that their class selections help them continue toward completion and that any changes to their schedule do not impact their financial aid eligibility.

8. **Since all the HACC campuses are closed until Dec. 31, does that mean the December Commencement will be held virtually?**

The College will review its plans for the December 2020 Commencement ceremony. More details will be shared at a later time.

9. **Since campus is going to be limited for the fall semester, will there be lower tuition for students since we won't be paying for on-campus facilities or getting the support we need on campus?**

The College will maintain its current tuition structure. Students will continue to receive the necessary supports, regardless if they are taking classes on campus or through virtual learning or remote instruction. Remote services – including library, tutoring, student affairs and student involvement – will continue and expand in scope. We will continue to offer labs and clinical experiences when clinical partners allow students on site.

10. **Some schools starting the fall semester early. Will HACC be going back earlier for the fall semester or will it be starting at its normal date?**

Fall classes will begin on Aug. 24, 2020, as scheduled.

11. **I noticed that the last line in the fall 2020 announcement to go remote states, "This is subject to change at the direction of the Cabinet or by state mandate." Does this imply that some of the approved on-campus courses may be pulled OR that we could find out at the last minute that we are going back to campus for face-to-face classes?**

To ensure the safety of our students and employees, the College is committed to a mostly remote format for the fall 2020 semester. Based on what happens with COVID-19 throughout the fall, there may be a need to revert to an earlier, more restrictive phase to protect students and employees. However, we will not move additional classes on campus during the fall semester outside of those with required hands-on components.

12. **I am looking to move forward into my nursing career, but HACC requires me to take the TEAS test to get into the program. Since HACC is closed, when, where and how am I going to be able to take this test?**

Please see this webpage with information about the TEAS test:

hacc.edu/ProgramsandCourses/Programs/HealthCareers/Nurse-RN.cfm?csSearch=908637_1

hacc.edu



800-ABC-HACC

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