

**Subject:** Your Coronavirus Preparedness Questions Answered – Sept. 16, 2020  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 16, 2020 5:20:06 PM

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Greetings!

Just as many of you did for the summer and fall 2020 semesters, I invite you to take just a few minutes to submit photos, videos and testimonials that [show how we are staying #HACCtogether](#) throughout the pandemic. Your submissions may be used in our marketing campaigns to future and current HACC students. Help us show everyone that HACC remains the best choice for higher education in Central Pennsylvania. Please visit [hacc.edu/HACCtogether](http://hacc.edu/HACCtogether) before Sept. 30, and you may win a FREE HACC Yeah!® T-shirt for participating!

You can also visit HACC's Virtual Student Involvement Fair at [flipgrid.com/haccfair2020](http://flipgrid.com/haccfair2020) and on [HACC's Facebook and Instagram pages](#) today, Sept. 16, until 8 p.m. You can explore videos from student clubs and organizations, College resources and community resources. I participated in the fair and learned a lot about all of the resources available for our students. You can enter into a chance to great win prizes, by completing the Scavenger Hunt at <https://forms.gle/7D6RdA1hkgBcKVnd9>. For more student involvement event information, please visit the [HACC Events Calendar](#).

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

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**1. When will refund disbursements be received for this semester? How can I check to see if I will be receiving a disbursement?**

Information about refund dates can be found here:

[hacc.edu/Paying/RefundInformation/Refund-Information.cfm](http://hacc.edu/Paying/RefundInformation/Refund-Information.cfm).

To receive a refund, you must have financial aid or other payments in excess of your outstanding balance. To view what your anticipated refund might be, please log into [myHACC](#) and view your student invoice and bill on the Financial Aid tab. At the bottom of the page, you can view what your anticipated refund might be.

**2. What is the CARE Center?**

The Consultation, Advocacy, Referrals and Empowerment (CARE) Center officially launches today, Sept. 16, 2020. It functions as a single stop to address non-academic student needs, including child care, food and housing, mental health, transportation and more. Dedicated staff in the CARE Center connect students to resources and services available at the College or within the community. This service is free to all HACC students.

More information about the CARE Center is available at [hacc.edu/CAREcenter](http://hacc.edu/CAREcenter).

**3. What are additional reasons that HACC decided to continue with remote and virtual instruction and services for the spring 2021 semester?**

We recently learned the following:

- There is a rise of COVID-19 cases among individuals aged 20-29.
- The vast majority of people transmitting the virus are completely asymptomatic. For example, if a college has two positive cases, they actually probably have 20 positive cases.

We do not want to follow the models of other institutions of higher education, where an outbreak occurs on campus, students transition to remote learning and the administration then tells students to go home.

Following is media coverage related to other colleges and universities:

- <https://www.pennlive.com/news/2020/08/bloomsburg-university-moving-to-remote-learning-in-wake-of-90-coronavirus-cases.html>
- <https://www.pennlive.com/news/2020/09/lock-haven-university-will-suspend-in-person-classes-for-two-weeks-due-to-covid-19-infections.html>
- <https://www.pennlive.com/news/2020/09/temple-university-suspends-nearly-all-in-person-classes-for-the-fall.html>
- <https://local21news.com/news/local/gettysburg-college-sends-most-of-its-students-home-pauses-classes-for-one-week>

**4. Will the College implement pass/fail grading for students this fall?**

We have decided to not implement pass/fail grades for the fall 2020 semester. Our reasons are:

- It would only apply to some students, since those in health careers programs cannot participate.
- Pass/fail grades may create unanticipated issues for some students with financial aid eligibility or international students.
- We do not have a pass/fail grade option at HACC, so we would need to build this grading system in the College's student information system.
- Building and testing a system that we have never used before will take resources away from the following projects:
  - Enhancing the student registration system
  - Enhancing the admissions system
  - Implementing a one-to-one device program for students in select programs

**5. I am a nursing student, and I was expecting to complete my clinicals on campus because that is the best way for me to learn. Is the Nursing Program one of the programs that is allowed to be on campus?**

As long as sites are available, nursing students will participate in clinicals this semester. In addition, students will practice and demonstrate skills in on-campus labs.

**6. Nursing students are being told that if we have to quarantine due to COVID-19 symptoms or exposure, we will miss our clinicals (if scheduled during that time) and may be at risk for failing our class if we miss two clinical nights. Why isn't there a backup plan for missed clinicals?**

Nursing faculty will work with students to make up work that is missed because of exposure or required quarantine. No one will fail because of missing time. The time will be made up.

**7. Why are the Anatomy and Physiology labs not included in the on-campus classes? These labs are is just as important as other labs that are being included.**

The biology faculty determined that the labs can be completed successfully through remote instruction.

**8. Are student workers allowed to return to work in their campus offices?**

All employees, including student workers, will work or continue to work remotely while HACC campuses remain closed through May 14, 2021.

9. **I am interested in learning more about important finance topics. Do you know where I can learn more?**

PSECU provides an [Online Learning Center](#), where you can learn more about budgeting, investing, homeownership, retirement and more.

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.

10. **What events are planned to celebrate and recognize Hispanic Heritage Month during September?**

Please see the events listed below:

**Museum of Latin American Art (MOLAA) Mural Exhibit**

Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with a live virtual field trip to the Museum of Latin American Art (MOLAA) in California. A museum docent will guide you through a visual tour of the mural exhibition "OaxaCalifornia: Through the Experience of the Artistic Duo Tlacolulokos."

- Sept. 22 at noon
- Space is limited and pre- registration is required. Please pre-register at [forms.gle/4zQsNK6rh46UNcyi9](https://forms.gle/4zQsNK6rh46UNcyi9)

**Examining Latinidad at the Crossroads of Race, Culture, and COVID-19.**

Join us on Sept. 23 from noon-1:30 p.m. as Dr. Michael Benitez, a leading scholar-practitioner and bold national voice on diversity, discusses "Examining Latinidad at the Crossroads of Race, Culture, and COVID-19." He will offer new insights to the Latinx experience.

Please use this link to join the session: **[Zoom information is redacted for security purposes.]**

For more student involvement event information, please view the [HACC Events Calendar](#).

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