

Oklahoma State System of Higher Education COVID-19 FAQs

Campus Closures

Will college and university campuses remain open during the COVID-19 outbreak?

Most institutions have transitioned/are transitioning to online learning for the remainder of the spring 2020 semester. All institutions currently have very limited access to campus, with many institutions reserving access to those with official student, staff, or faculty identification cards. Please contact your respective institution for current information regarding this topic.

If campuses remain open, what services will be offered?

Many campuses with residential facilities are asking residents who are able to move out of campus housing and back to their homes to continue their online coursework. Those students unable to do so are being assisted by their institutions and will find various amenities available on campus, though with very limited access. Currently, these may include libraries, computer labs, and dining facilities with grab-and-go meals. Most institutions have closed their campus gym facilities, recreational facilities, and common areas to limit the potential for gatherings. Student Services remain available to students, however with many staff and faculty currently working remotely, it is suggested that students contact faculty or staff via phone or email. Meetings with many staff and faculty still working on campus require an appointment. Please contact your respective institution for current information.

Current Coursework

How will courses be conducted during the COVID-19 outbreak?

All institutions will be conducting courses online or in other alternative formats, many for the remainder of the spring 2020 semester. Students should check their student email frequently, as instructors will be communicating with them this way. Students with clinical or field experiences should check with their faculty supervisors. Each institution has its own preferred online platform. Please contact your respective institution for current information.

How will the transition to online courses affect grading?

Many institutions are permitting (but not requiring) courses to convert to a pass/no-pass grading system as needed. The pass/no-pass grade will not count in the grade point average (GPA) calculation, though courses will still count toward graduation requirements. Institutions are currently working through the logistical details of this process. Please contact your respective institution for current information.

How can I contact my professor/instructor during this time?

Students are advised to contact their professors/instructors via email at this time. Most faculty and staff are available for normal business hours, even if working remotely. Please contact your respective institution for current information.

Undergraduate Admission, Assessment, and Enrollment for Summer 2020 or Fall 2020

I'm planning to enroll for next summer and/or fall. How is enrollment impacted?

Institutions are working diligently to lessen negative impacts on students due to grading, testing, or academic record issues caused by COVID-19 for Summer 2020 and Fall 2020 admission and enrollment. Please contact your respective institution for current information.

I cannot take my ACT/SAT test because testing has been canceled for April 2020. How will this impact my admission and enrollment?

Institutions are working on alternative measures to make admission and enrollment decisions if the student cannot access the ACT, SAT, or other assessment tests due to COVID-19 issues.

My high school Spring 2020 GPA may not be what I expected due to COVID-19 issues. Will my Spring 2020 GPA negatively impact my admission and/or scholarship opportunities?

Institutions are working diligently to lessen negative impacts on students due to the instructional changes in Spring 2020. Regular graded high school work will be calculated in the GPA. High school pass/no-pass grades will not be counted in the GPA calculation and will not impact admission decisions at State System institutions or state scholarship decisions. Please contact your respective institution for more current information.

Campus Housing

What if I live in campus housing and have been advised not to return to campus housing?

Some institutions are encouraging students to move out of campus housing, and those students should expect to receive an email from their institution's housing office with specific details regarding procedures for moving out of campus housing. Residents may have the option to terminate their contracts early without penalty, or receive reimbursement through their bursar account; however, this varies from institution to institution. Please contact your respective institution for current information.

What if campus housing is the only option I have for living arrangements?

Residents who are unable to leave their on-campus housing should contact their institution's housing office, and the institution will continue to support these students. Residents unable to leave campus may have limited access to campus amenities, such as libraries and computer labs, and dining facilities with grab-and-go meal options. Please contact your respective institution for current information regarding this topic.

Commencement

Will commencement ceremonies still be held?

Many institutions have postponed spring commencement ceremonies and are currently looking at modified or alternative ways to celebrate and honor their graduates. Announcements for each institution are forthcoming. Please contact your respective institution for current information regarding this topic.

Oklahoma's Promise

I am an Oklahoma's Promise student. How will grading for the Spring 2020 semester impact me?

For the Spring 2020 semester, the student will receive the letter grade earned in the concurrent college class unless the student elects to change letter grade to "pass." High school or concurrent courses that apply to the Oklahoma's

Promise high school core curriculum requirements that are assigned a grade of “pass” (or its equivalent) will not be included in the grade point average (GPA) calculation for the core curriculum. While the course grade will not be included in the calculation of the core curriculum GPA, the course will count toward the required units for the core curriculum as appropriate. Normally, for purposes of calculating the 2.50 minimum GPA for the 17-unit core curriculum, courses with grade of “pass” are assigned a letter grade of “D” or the lowest passing grade that high school assigns to courses. This will allow an exception to this requirement for Spring 2020 grades. Oklahoma’s Promise students will remain subject to the minimum 2.50 cumulative GPA requirement for all courses taken in grades 9-12 as calculated by the local school district. Please note that this may not be the case for other things such as determining class Valedictorian; for high school grade issues not related to college admission, course placement, or Oklahoma’s Promise, contact your high school counselor.

Financial Aid

How will my campus closure affect my financial aid?

Many institutions have the flexibility to work with their students to ensure they are able to stay in school. Please contact your institution’s financial aid office, as well as your academic advisor/coach or program coordinator, for additional guidance about your financial aid situation.

U.S. Department of Education Financial Aid Guidance changes rapidly. For further guidance, please refer to: <https://www.ed.gov/coronavirus?src=feature>. Please contact your respective institution for current information regarding this topic.

Veterans/GI Bill Benefits

I am a veteran. How does my institution’s response to COVID-19 affect the GI Bill?

On March 21, President Trump signed into law S. 3503, which will enable the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to continue providing the same level of education benefits to students having to take courses online due to the COVID-19 outbreak. The law gives the VA temporary authority to continue GI Bill payments uninterrupted in the event of national emergencies allowing for continued payment of benefits even if the program has changed from resident training to online training. GI Bill students will continue receiving the same monthly housing allowance payments they received for resident training until December 21, or until the school resumes in-person classes. Students receiving GI Bill benefits are not required to take any action and benefits will continue automatically.

Further information about the G.I. Bill can be found at the following websites:

1. The Student Veterans of America (SVA): <https://studentveterans.org/aboutus/government-affairs/covid-19-faq>
2. U.S. Veterans Affairs: <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5403>

Concurrent Enrollment

How will students participating in Concurrent Enrollment be impacted?

Institutions are expected to reach out to Spring 2020 concurrent enrollment students to ensure that they have access to adequate technology to complete their coursework, and if not, direct them to appropriate resources for connectivity or ways to complete instruction for the course(s). For summer and fall concurrent admission and enrollment, institutions may use emails from parents and counselors/principals in lieu of original signatures on permission forms. For summer and fall concurrent enrollment, institutions may use alternative methods for admission and course placement in lieu of currently prescribed curricular requirements and performance standards if the student does not have and/or cannot access standard assessments and/or records.

High school students taking concurrent college courses should be aware that they are still enrolled in these courses, regardless of their high school’s plan for completing the academic year. Students should communicate with their

high school counselors before taking any action such as dropping a college course or opting in to a Pass/No-Pass grade as these actions may affect high school graduation requirements. Although institutions are doing everything they can to give students needed flexibility, concurrent college grades will still remain on a student's college transcript permanently.

Teacher Education

I'm in a teacher education program. How will my student teaching and certification testing be impacted?

Teacher education programs will be providing alternative options for students to complete requirements, such as student teaching. In addition, the Office of Educational Quality and Accountability (OEQA) will provide accommodations and/or deadline extensions for students whose testing centers have been closed and/or performance assessments impacted. For more information, contact your respective institution for current information.

Nursing Education

I'm in a nursing program. How will my clinical instructional and NCLEX testing be impacted?

The Oklahoma Board of Nursing is working with nursing education programs to allow creativity in meeting requirements for nursing education and licensure. For more information, contact your respective institution for current information.

Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act

What is the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act?

The bi-partisan Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was signed into law by President Trump on Friday, March 27. The CARES Act provides \$30.57 billion in stabilization stimulus funds for education that can be utilized to address costs associated with responses to COVID-19. Specifically, the CARES Act divides this funding as follows:

- 9.8% funding to governors (discretionary) - \$2,953,230,000
- 43.9% to K-12 education - \$13,229,265,000
- 46.3% to higher education - \$13,952,505,000

From this funding, Oklahoma's public colleges and universities will receive approximately \$106 million in stimulus funding, with \$53 million earmarked for emergency student financial aid.

I'm a student attending a college/university. How can the CARES Act help me?

The CARES Act provides approximately \$53 million in funding to colleges and universities for emergency student financial aid. The CARES Act provides institutions with significant discretion on how to award this emergency assistance to students. This means that each institution may develop its own system and process for determining how to allocate these funds, which may include distributing the funds to all students or only to students who demonstrate significant need. The only statutory requirement is that the funds be used to cover expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus (including eligible expenses under a student's cost of attendance, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child care). Additionally, the CARES Act provides for a variety of flexibilities on laws related to federal Title IV financial aid and student loans, providing temporary student loan relief through September 30, 2020, with no interest accruing during the suspension period, no garnishments, no reduction of tax refunds or any other involuntary collection activity.

How does the CARES Act help the college/university that I'm attending?

The CARES Act allows institutions of higher education to use funds received to cover any costs associated with significant changes to delivery of instruction (such as transitioning to virtual/online/alternative formats) due to COVID- 19, so long as such costs do not include payment to contractors for the provision of pre-enrollment recruitment activities; endowments; or capital outlays associated with facilities related to athletics, sectarian instruction, or religious worship.

Campus Website Links – COVID-19 Updates

Cameron University – <https://www.cameron.edu/covid-19>

Carl Albert State College – <https://www.carlalbert.edu/covid-19/>

Connors State College – <https://connorsstate.edu/covid-19>

East Central University – <https://www.ecok.edu/about-east-central-university/emergency-procedures/ecu-covid-19-response-plan>

Eastern Oklahoma State College – https://eosc.edu/student_br_campus_life/health_safety/coronavirus.aspx

Langston University – <https://www.langston.edu/healthclinic/covid19>

Murray State College – <https://www.msok.edu/current-students/covid-19>

Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College – <http://www.neo.edu/neo-campus-covid-19-update/>

Northeastern State University – <https://offices.nsuok.edu/studentaffairs/Coronavirus>

Northern Oklahoma College – <http://www.noc.edu/emergency/>

Northwestern Oklahoma State University – <https://www.nwosu.edu/coronavirus>

Oklahoma City Community College – <http://occc.edu/coronavirus/>

Oklahoma Panhandle State University – <https://opsu.edu/coronavirus/>

Oklahoma State University - <https://go.okstate.edu/coronavirus/index.html>

Redlands Community College – <https://www.redlandsec.edu/node/4081>

Rogers State University – <https://www.rsu.edu/about/offices-services/public-relations/coronavirus/>

Rose State College – <https://www.rose.edu/content/about-us/our-campus/covid-19-campus-resource-page/news-and-updates/>

Seminole State College – <https://www.sscok.edu/covid19/covid.html>

Southeastern Oklahoma State University – <https://www.se.edu/student-wellness/coronavirus-update/>

Southwestern Oklahoma State University – <https://www.swosu.edu/coronavirus/index.aspx>

The University of Oklahoma - <http://www.ou.edu/coronavirus>

Tulsa Community College – <http://www.tulsacc.edu/Coronavirus>

University of Central Oklahoma – <https://www.uco.edu/coronavirus/>

University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma – <https://usao.edu/about/coronavirus/index.html>

Western Oklahoma State College - <https://www.wosc.edu/index.php?page=covid19>