

Letter from Dr. Jayne Edman, Dean, Health Sciences Institute

March 18, 2020

Dear Respiratory, Rad Tech, and Nursing Students,

As COVID-19 continues to affect our communities, the Health Science Institute administration, faculty, and staff are working diligently to carry out our semester activities. Our priority is your health and safety. Our Spring Break is almost over, and classes are scheduled to resume on Monday March 23, 2020. We have moved all classes to an online format. Do you have everything set to go? Did you know that CANVAS will work on your cell phone?

Providing clinical experiences is providing a unique set of challenges to us as we must protect you from exposure while still limiting the need for the scarce personal protective equipment. Faculty have created online activities and simulations that will provide excellent opportunities to practice clinical skills and demonstrate clinical decision making. Your course and clinical instructors will communicate with you about what this means in your courses and clinicals. Watch for announcements in CANVAS.

We are very attuned to the needs of students graduating this spring. Please bear with us as the accreditation requirements for clinical experiences and public health recommendations for students' participation at clinical sites changes often. We are following all county, state, and federal requirements for public health and educational facilities.

Many of you have contacted me with some specific questions. The most frequent question I have received is about upcoming standardized tests. Each course that uses ATI or HESI tests is addressing this individually. Faculty may postpone standardized exams that require extensive security software or use an alternative exam. I have also been asked a lot about pinning ceremonies. At this time, no decisions have been made regarding pinning ceremonies. The state is currently restricting large gatherings. This ban on large gatherings would need to be lifted in order to have face-to-face pinning.

We are committed to providing you a quality education and appreciate your patience as we determine how we are going to continue moving forward. We will provide an update as decisions are made. Please remember to check both your college emails and your CANVAS shells for communications. If you have questions, please contact me or your faculty.

Sincerely,

Jayne Edman

Dean, Health Science Institute

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