

Spring 2020 Student Life Board Speak Out

Hosted via Zoom on March 31, 2020

In attendance:

Dr. David Stout – President of Brookdale Community College, Dr. Yesenia Madas – Associate Vice President of Student Affairs, Dr. Sarah McElroy – Director of Career & Leadership Development, Christopher Jeune – Director of Student Conduct & Compliance, Stephanie Fitzsimmons – Director of Financial Aid, Lauren Brutsman – Director of Student Life & Activities, Mary Jo Burkhard – Administrative Assistant of Student Life & Activities, ErinMarie Tierney – Assistant Director of Student Life & Activities, Becky Nastro – Student Life Board President, Rose Adu – Student Life Board Vice President, Mark McIlvain – Student Life Board Parliamentarian, Sydney Kutzin – Student Life Board Secretary

Student Questions:

How should I transfer my credits to Brookdale at this time?

The first step is to apply online. If you are requesting an evaluation of transfer credit, you will need to have your transcript from the previous institution sent to Brookdale. Student Success coaches can also meet with you to further discuss. <https://www.brookdalecc.edu/recruitment/apply/>

What is the status of the Pass/No Credit option at Brookdale at this time?

Choosing Pass/No Credit for your courses is always an option, typically, until the third week of the semester. Currently, the College is looking into reopening this as an option for courses at the 100 level and beyond. However, it does come with some risk: the Pass/No Credit option does not guarantee transferability. This option is a neutral grade which does not improve nor hurt your GPA. It does, however, count towards graduation at Brookdale!

How does this effect Graduation?

The College is currently in discussion regarding this year's commencement ceremonies. Once an official decision has been made, that information will be posted on the Information for Graduating Students webpage found here: <https://www.brookdalecc.edu/student-engagement/graduation/information-for-graduating-students/> The deadline for applying for graduation has been extended. Students may apply online via WebAdvisor. If, for some reason, you cannot apply online, you should follow up with a Student Success Coach.

At this time, since students are unable to make payment for courses in-person, what is the status of payment options for Summer courses, specifically with a concern for late fees?

The College plans to extend the deadline for in-person course payment. If you plan to pay in one-lump-sum, there are no fees regardless. However, if utilizing online payment plans, fees may be incurred by the credit card company.

Will summer courses be offered in-person?

As the College moves forward with planning for the future, Summer I and Summer II courses will be moved online. Many will utilize the *Online Live* format. Further resources, as well as the request for loaner laptops, etc, can be found on the COVID-19 Student FAQ page here:

<https://www.brookdalecc.edu/advancement/college-relations/brookdales-response-to-covid-19/information-for-students/>

Are lab fees going to be refunded?

As lectures have moved online, so have labs. Many of these lab courses are offering virtual simulations that support the full lab experience. The College will continue to look into this topic.

Will refunds be issued for students who cannot complete courses online?

For those students seeking refund for courses that have moved online, an appeal must be submitted. Other courses that cannot be completed online (like the Epicurean program or Auto Tech), those students may receive the status of "In Progress" to denote participation in the program that will resume once facilities have reopened.

Is there assistance for students on Unemployment that need to pay for courses?

Is students have a concern regarding unemployment status, please reach out to Sylvina Mendez, a bilingual social worker from Monmouth County Division of Social Services, who has been assigned to Brookdale. Students can call 732-431-6000 x5223 or email smendez@brookdalecc.edu. The Financial Aid office can only help those students who have filled out and submitted their 2019-2020 FAFSA. However, it is not too late to submit that form! FAFSA coaches are available to assist via Zoom <https://www.brookdalecc.edu/financial-aid/> Questions can also be sent to covidquestions@brookdalecc.edu

How does the current situation effect internships and service-learning?

The department of Career and Leadership Development has emailed those students in classes or internships with additional options that will allow students to finish their hours without impacting their grade. The same applies to those students with education fieldwork time to complete. Regarding service-learning, as these assignments are volunteer based, students should follow up with their instructors to see if they have a specific preference for how those volunteer hours are completed.

When can Federal Work Study students expect to return to their positions?

Currently, students with signed contracts are being paid their average hourly pay although facilities are closed. Moving forward, awards for federal work study are allocated on July 1st. That said, Career & Leadership Development is hopeful for a late-summer, in-person return for student work opportunities.

Can Alert Forms still be submitted by students?

Yes! Students should contact the office of Disability Services to discuss their alert forms. After discussion with the Director, alert forms are presented to the faculty in a student's courses. Faculty should then be reviewing the form with the student. <https://www.brookdalecc.edu/disability-services/>

Is academic tutoring still available?

Yes! Currently, the Reading, Writing and Math Labs are offering remote assistance. The Library is also working on setting up Zoom tutoring sessions. For those students seeking assistance in Public Speaking Courses, you can contact Geoff Shields (gshields@brookdalecc.edu).

Is Helping Hands still available?

Yes! A Canvas shell with further information about Helping Hands and community resources has been made available for students.

When can student athletes return to their sports teams?

Given the current climate and following all regulations set forth by the State Department, it is difficult to say when normal operations will resume. As soon as our facilities are reopened and there are no extenuating social distancing mandates, team sports can resume.

What is the status of clubs?

Many of our active clubs are currently utilizing technology to host virtual meetings and programs. For those students interested in joining, you can reach out to Student Life & Activities or the clubs directly for further information.

For those clubs who are interested in going virtual, the suggestion from Student Life & Activities is to have your Advisor schedule a Zoom meeting and then send the link to all members.

Further questions can be directed to the Student Life Board (slb@brookdalecc.edu) or to Student Life & Activities (studentlife@brookdalecc.edu)!