COVID-19 Q and A Webinar
Updates & Scenario Driven Guidance for ACCSC-accredited schools
Webinar Agenda

- Overview of Resources
- Let’s Get Interactive!
- State of the Commission
  - w/ Dr. Michale McComis
- Scenario Driven Guidance
  - w/ Alanna Marx & Michale McComis
- Additional Q & A
ACCSC


• ACCSC is closely monitoring the impact of COVID-19

• Guidance centers around public health and public safety

• Working Together to identify Flexible and Creative Solutions

March 5, 2020 Guidance Memo
Crucial Communications: Collaboration is the Key to Success

Keep ACCSC Informed
Upload Your Plans to College 360

Stay in Contact
State Regulatory Community

Follow the Guidance
Issued by the U.S. Department of Education
Let’s Get InterActive
State of the Commission

Dr. Michale McComis
ACCSC Executive Director
ACCSC School Activity (Week of 4/7/20)

• **523** schools have submitted notices/plans
  • All plans have been processed by ACCSC staff
  • **900+** total submissions including updates

• **428** schools using some form of distance education
  • synchronous (i.e, zoom/go-to-meeting, etc.)
  • asynchronous (i.e, LMS, recorded lectures, etc.)

• **95** schools have suspended classes and plan to extend the term.
• Remote Access
  • ACCSC On-Line Staff Directory

• 4.3.20 Virtual Renewal Workshop

• Faculty Development Webinar Series
  • 1800 registered participants

• Update: On-Site Evaluations
  • Postponed Through 5.15.20
  • Continuing to Assess

• Virtual Commission Meeting – May 2020
  • 73 School Actions on the Agenda
Scenario Driven Guidance
Our school is currently unable to offer externships, what are our options?

- Replace Externship w/ Equivalent Course
  - Total Credit Hours = Same
  - Indefinite / Change in Credit Hours?
  - Application for A Non-Substantive Change
  - Check with State / Board

- Place the Student on a Leave of Absence
  - Complete externship when available
Externships

If the student has been placed in a related job while on externship, could they finish the externship through their employer?

Yes

- There must be an externship plan, assessment, and proper grading criteria.
- Documentation
Can students complete lab time via distance education and when residential classes resume, can they complete the remaining lab time hours on campus?

**Yes**

- How many lab hours via distance education?
- Must meet the definition of lab time.
- What portion will be required to complete residentially?
  - Similar to offering a blended course.
Can we revise our Leave of Absence Policy or add a policy (if we didn’t have one previously) temporarily?

**Yes**

- Not an indefinite change?
- Issue an addendum to the current catalog to notify students of the new policy.
Can we suspend classes and allow a student to take an LOA?

**Yes**

- Federal Guidelines
  - Coursework suspension was due to COVID-19
  - LOA is for the purpose of Title IV fund eligibility

- The student can take LOA until the school can resume coursework (courses, clinical, and externships)
Can admission documents be electronically signed and submitted?

Yes

- DocuSign/Electronic signatures are acceptable
- Be sure to Check w/ State Agency
- See ACCSC’s Guidance on Admissions Documentation
Program Advisory Committees

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we are planning on having a virtual Program Advisory Committee meeting. ACCSC requires one meeting per year to take place at the school. How should we proceed?

• Holding two virtual PAC meetings in 2020 is completely acceptable.
  • Rationale in Meeting Minutes

• There is flexibility if PAC meetings also need to be delayed to a future date.

• Get creative!
In what ways are school’s required to communicate to students under the classification of distance education learning?

**Instructors must initiate** substantive communication with students, either individually or collectively, on a regular basis.

- Email
- Chat
- Conference Calls / Zoom
- Submission of Work
- Total Didactic and Lab Hours must be met and tracked
My school is approved by ACCSC to offer distance education. However, some programs are approved as blended (less than 50% of the curriculum is offered online).

If we wish to pursue expanding our distance education indefinitely, what are the next steps?

- > 50% of the curriculum online or 100% of the program online
  - Application for the Expansion of Distance Education.

- Any program not been approved for distance education
  - Application for Expansion Distance Education
  - Up to three programs per application.
My school is not approved by ACCSC to offer distance education. If we wish to pursue distance education indefinitely, what are the next steps?

**Application for Initial Distance Education**

- Up to three programs per application.
We are concerned that our ability to demonstrate successful student achievement is going to be significantly impacted due to COVID-19. Is ACCSC considering offering any relief to schools regarding the reported rates of graduation and employment?

The Standards contemplate this very notion.

• If rates are below benchmark, a school may still demonstrate successful achievement of its students by showing “…other external or mitigating factors reasonably related to student achievement are adversely impacting the school’s ability to meet the Commission’s established benchmark rates.”
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