ACCSC

Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges

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COVID-19 FAQ for ACCSC-Accredited Schools

As shared in ACCSC's March 5, 2020 guidance regarding the impact of COVID-19, ACCSC's first and foremost concern is for public health and public safety. In light of current circumstances, ACCSC understands that schools may need to make substantive changes to the manner in which training is offered or may need to temporarily cease operation. ACCSC remains open to a range of flexible and creative solutions that support students, schools, and public health and safety. Additionally, if your school is scheduled for an on-site evaluation, or is otherwise currently engaged in the renewal of accreditation process, please remain in close contact with your assigned staff member to discuss any changes to your school's operating status.

At this time, ACCSC is asking that schools provide an update via the ACCSC database, College 360 when the school determines to implement a substantive change to how education is being delivered as follows:

Need for Temporary Distance Education Delivery

1. A copy of the school's contingency plan in preparation for possible quarantines or limits to in-person learning.

2. A copy of the school's plan to notify and assist students with modified learning environment to include the following:

    a. Description of programs/classes impacted, including didactic/lab hours as appropriate.

    b. Effective date of change in delivery method and/or cancelling face-to-face classes.

    c. Description of delivery method (i.e., Skype, Distance Education Platform, Go-to-Meeting, etc.)

    d. Support for students

        i. Management oversight;

        ii. Technology support as appropriate; and

        iii. Access to faculty (i.e., phone, email, DE platform, etc)

    e. Description of how students will access educational resources like LRS, other learning materials/resources.

3. For schools with allied health programs – please describe school's plan for making up clinical experience/practicums as needed.

4. Periodic updates to ACCSC as to when the school expects to return to normal operations.

Suspending Classes

Should a school need to suspend classes, please provide the following:

1. Effective date with estimate of how long classes will be suspended and when the school will re-evaluate.

2. A copy of the notification to students, including the effective date and how the school will communicate the start of classes post emergency.

3. How the missed time will be made up (e.g., increase length of term; increase time/day over the period of the remainder of the term, etc.).

4. The school's plan for any information due to the Commission during the suspension (i.e., reporting, self-evaluation report, etc.).

Disruption of Clinical, Practicum, or Externship Experiences

If a clinical, practicum, or externship experience is impacted, please provide the following:

1. Expected timeline for suspension of the experience, including re-evaluation of suspension.

2. A copy of the school's plan to make up time and/or options for students. Options may include, but are not limited to the following:

    a. Clinical Simulations if available (per programmatic accreditor's acceptance or recommendation);

    b. The rescheduling of the experience after the classes return to normal; and

    c. Options to move students to sites that are still available and willing to accept students, even with reduced procedures.

Extended Absences for Students

Should a school have students who need to self-quarantine or need time for recovery, please provide the following:

1. A copy of the school's plan to accommodate students who may be unable to attend classes due to exposure to COVID-19 or illness from the virus, including Leave of Absence and/or waiver of attendance policy.

2.   How the school will assist students returning to classes to make up the work missed.

Other:

If the school identifies additional areas not addressed above, please provide ACCSC a description and the school's plan of action.