

**Subject:** Update: HACC's Preparation for the Coronavirus – June 16, 2020  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 5:03:55 PM

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Good afternoon, colleagues!

If you were unable to attend the collegewide Zoom session on June 11, I encourage you to please [watch the recorded session](#). In it, Cindy Doherty and Tim Barshinger, co-chairs of the collegewide COVID-19 Task Force, provide detailed information about [our decision](#) to offer mostly remote and online classes and services this fall. I appreciate the work that the task force did to prepare its recommendation. I know it was not an easy task, but I feel confident that we have focused on the needs of our students and employees and will continue to do so.

I am also **grateful to all of you** for your continued flexibility, patience and understanding as we move forward as an institution.

As a reminder, HACC and PSECU have partnered to host a FREE virtual event for HACC supporters. The event, “A Virtual Chat on All Things Money with PSECU,” will be held June 23 at 3 p.m. For more information, please visit our [online newsroom](#).

As you have come to expect, following are the commonly asked questions and our responses to them. Please note that some of these responses are tentative and subject to change.

If you have additional questions and you do not see the answers on the website, please submit the online form located on the website. Please see the webpage section called “[Information for Employees](#).” If you would like to see the information being communicated to students, please see the webpage called “[Information for Students](#).”

We will continue to update you regularly via email, the aforementioned website and Zoom sessions.

Thank you!

John J. “Ski” Sygielski, MBA, Ed.D.  
Pronouns: He, Him, His  
President & CEO  
HACC, Central Pennsylvania’s Community College

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1. **Please provide information on the “HEROES Act” distributions. Who will receive funds and when? Many colleges have distributed their money to students.**

The “Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions Act” or the “HEROES Act” was passed by the House of Representatives in May 2020. As written, the “HEROES Act” does not include provisions that provide money to students. The “HEROES Act” has since moved to the Senate for a vote. However, as of June 11, the Senate has not taken any action on the “HEROES Act.”

2. **When will students be receiving their portion of the CARES Act money that was**

**distributed to HACC?**

Details regarding when and how HACC will distribute [Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security](#) (CARES) Act monies are available at [hacc.edu/CARESact](http://hacc.edu/CARESact).

3. **Since all the HACC campuses are closed until Dec. 31, does that mean the December Commencement will be held virtually?**

The College will review its plans for the December 2020 Commencement ceremony. More details will be shared at a later time.

4. **Some schools are starting the fall semester early. Will HACC be going back earlier for the fall semester or will it be starting at its normal date?**

Fall classes will begin on Aug. 24, 2020, as scheduled.

5. **I noticed that the last line in the fall 2020 announcement to go remote states, “This is subject to change at the direction of the Cabinet or by state mandate.” Does this imply that some of the approved on-campus courses may be pulled OR that we could find out at the last minute that we are going back to campus for face-to-face classes? Advisees may switch campus sections based on full schedule now and not select a course based on the campus location. If we were to make a last-minute switch to face-to-face and they have now signed up for courses at all of our campuses, they will not be able to drive there, and their schedules will completely need redone. Thanks for any guidance you can provide.**

To ensure the safety of our students and employees, the College is committed to a mostly remote format for the fall 2020 semester. Based on what happens with COVID-19 throughout the fall, there may be a need to revert to an earlier, more restrictive phase to protect students and employees. However, we will not move additional classes on campus during the fall semester outside of those with required hands-on components.

6. **Will the health career programs update their admission requirements to waive GPA requirements? If pass/fail is offered in fall, new students will not have a GPA. Additionally, those who are trying to improve their GPA will not have the opportunity to do so under pass/fail.**

Health careers programs will not change their admission requirements. Selective admission programs have established criteria that best predict success in the program.

Pass/fail grades will not be implemented across the board. The accrediting bodies for some programs prohibit the use of pass/fail grades in required courses. A committee will be established to determine the parameters and process for implementing pass/fail grades in the fall.

**Quote:** *The practice of staying present will heal you. Obsessing about how the future will turn out creates anxiety. Replaying broken scenarios from the past causes anger and sadness, Stay*

*here, in this moment. ~S. McNutt*