

March 13, 2020

To: Authorized Degree-Granting Institutions in Washington State

From: Washington Student Achievement Council

Re: Restriction of On-campus Activities at Washington Postsecondary Institutions

Earlier today, Governor Inslee issued a directive in response to the COVID-19 outbreak prohibiting on-campus instruction at all postsecondary colleges and universities in Washington State from Tuesday, March 17, at 12:01am, until Friday, April 24, at 12:00pm. Labs and clinics may continue if social distancing is imposed and a person is designated by the institution to ensure that students and faculty maintain a distance of six feet from each other. Core functions of the institution may also be performed on campus, including administration and safety, continued use of dorms and food services, and research and medical clinics.

An archived copy of Governor Inslee's press conference may be viewed at the below address:
<https://www.tvw.org/watch/?eventID=2020031174>

This letter provides immediate authorization for all institutions with a physical campus in Washington State and authorized by the Degree-Granting Institutions Act to offer distance education through April 24, 2020, at 12:00pm. This grant of authorization extends to all degree programs and academic courses offered by the institution. In the event Governor Inslee extends the directive prohibiting on-campus instruction beyond April 24, this grant of authorization to provide distance education will be extended for as long as on-campus activities are restricted.

The Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC) supports institutions' efforts to protect students, faculty, staff, and community members in light of the public health concerns related to COVID-19, and we will consider requests for exceptions to any regulatory requirements necessitated by public health needs.

Please let WSAC know if you initiate a campus closure for any duration or if you implement significant operational changes in response to COVID-19 other than a shift to distance education. Please also let WSAC know if we can provide guidance with respect to any planned changes.

For information and resources related to COVID-19, please refer to the following:

- Washington State Department of Health: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/Coronavirus>
- U.S. Department of Education – Information and Resources for Schools and School Personnel: <https://www.ed.gov/coronavirus?src=feature>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – Interim Guidance for Administrators of US Institutions of Higher Education: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-ihe-response.html>
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs: <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/n-coronavirus/>