

Dear SCU Community:

The University's COVID-19 Response Team has been closely monitoring the situation and has been preparing for possible impacts to our operations. We have consulted with the Los Angeles Department of Public Health and our colleagues. There are no known cases of infection among the SCU community, but the virus continues to spread nationwide. Our current COVID-19 resource page can be viewed [HERE](#).

Education and patient care are SCU's core businesses, but the safety of our campus community is our first priority. We recognize the anxiety that uncertainty can cause – both about health and about progress towards graduation. These are valid concerns, and I share them. My hope is that this update will provide some level of certainty about health and progress towards graduation and reduce anxiety. We will continue to provide additional updates as the situation evolves.

Public health authorities recommend social distancing to reduce the risk of transmission. We are taking important steps to achieve this goal, and this letter outlines those steps. We will continue to monitor, evaluate, and update the campus on each item. We ask for your support and patience as we collectively address this challenging situation.

## EVENTS

Out of an abundance of caution, effective March 13th, SCU is canceling all extra-curricular events, on- and off-campus, until further notice. Please feel free to email Shelby Gugel at [shelbygugel@scuhs.edu](mailto:shelbygugel@scuhs.edu) if you have any questions on this topic.

## GRADUATION

SCU values the safety of our students, faculty, and staff and are committed to their overall health and wellness. The unpredictable nature of this virus is unfortunately requiring us to postpone the Spring (April 18, 2020) graduation. Our goal is to hold the Spring graduation in conjunction with our scheduled December 2020 ceremony. Those students set to graduate this April will still receive their diplomas shortly after the completion of the spring term per the normal process. An FAQ page has been set up [HERE](#) to address questions concerning graduation. Please feel free to email Shelby Gugel at [ShelbyGugel@scuhs.edu](mailto:ShelbyGugel@scuhs.edu) if you have any questions on this topic.

## CLASSES

In response to the developing situation around the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19), SCU has decided to suspend all lecture and lab classes on starting Friday, March 13 through Tuesday, March 17, **with the following exceptions:**

- **All program clinical clerkships / clinical rotations / preceptorships and PA clinical end of rotation exams all continue unchanged** – see [CLINIC](#) section below.
- AYYOG1 in Ayurveda Wellness Educator, which is already planned to be offered online.
- Massage Therapy: Wellness and Health, which will be held online starting Monday at the regularly scheduled time within Zoom.
- Accelerated Science courses scheduled during the campus suspension will be offered online.

Individual programs will provide additional details to students by March 18. Courses will be taught remotely from Wednesday March 18 until at least Sunday April 5 (the "online period"). An update will be provided by April 1 regarding plans for the remainder of the semester, and for summer semester.

Registration for graduate programs will be delayed until approximately Sunday April 5 to adapt the summer schedule. The Massage Therapy March 23 start date will defer until at least the May 4<sup>th</sup> start.

We understand that students, faculty, and staff will have many questions regarding this transition. Here are some basic points of information:

- **There is currently a plan in place to use Canvas (and Zoom within Canvas) as the primary platform for online courses.** Faculty and students will receive information over coming days to facilitate the transition. Students and faculty should use the time of course closure over the weekend to ensure that they have the technology and software in place to support this transition starting Wednesday. *Everyone should be patient, flexible, and understanding as we make this quick transition.*
- **Students will receive additional academic and program specific information** prior to Wednesday 3/18, and should watch for periodic communications.
- **Students will receive course specific instructions** from lead faculty in each course by email prior to Wednesday 3/18, noting any needed information for the course in the new format.
- **Courses with labs (hands-on skills) that cannot transition online** will be handled in this manner:
  - If there is an accompanying lecture, the lecture will be taught online through the rest of the term, so that only lab hours remain.
  - The needed lab hours will be completed as soon as appropriate, whether at the end of this term, or at a later date/in a later term. This means that some courses may carry "Incomplete" grades for some time.
  - The programs will work to ensure that prerequisites related to "Incomplete" grades will not inhibit degree progress.
  - Everyone will need to be flexible when these labs to resume. Our intent is to do all possible to prevent graduation delays, but it may require some significant flexibility on everyone's part.
  - Note: Students will be informed by Program leadership which labs cannot transition online – watch for the "course specific" and "program specific" information.

## CLINIC AND CLINICAL ROTATIONS

- **Courses with a clinical/patient-care component** will be handled in this manner:
  - **GENERAL CLINICAL/PATIENT-CARE guidance:**
    - SCU Chief Clinical Officer Dr. Melissa Nagare spoke with the Los Angeles Department of Public Health earlier today. The representative stated that there is no reason to discontinue student involvement in patient care if the clinics are following the County Department of Public Health recommendations and have appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) and supplies.
    - For this reason, patient care will continue at all SCU clinical sites that are following the County Department of Public Health recommendations and have appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) and supplies. We will continue to monitor the situation closely and advise of any changes.
      - Students will be notified of rotation cancellations on a case-by-case basis if any site does not meet these standards.
    - Although clinical operations will continue, we understand and respect that some students have health/safety concerns with continued involvement in patient care, so **students who are uncomfortable/concerned for their health/safety may opt out of patient care at any time** with advance notice to their clinical education department chair or program director.
      - Students who opt out must make up missed clinic via virtual activities and/or make up clinic at a later date depending on their program and accreditation rules. Opting out could delay graduation. Specific questions should be directed to the pertinent clinical Department Chair, Director, or Dean.
  - **PROGRAM-SPECIFIC CLINICAL/PATIENT-CARE guidance:**
    - **PA** students on clinical rotations will continue all rotations – individual site closures will be handled as they arise on a site by site basis; students will be reassigned by the Clinic Director when possible (based on availability, which could delay graduation).
    - **DC** students on Base/Satellite/PPR shifts can only receive clinical credits through patient care. Clinical hours may be completed via patient care or virtual clinical activities. If a DC student opts out of patient care, they can receive credit for virtual hours, but will be required to make up credits later.
    - **DACM** students in observation only may receive clinical hours via patient care or virtual clinical activities.
      - Students in DACM clinical practice can only receive clinical credits and hours through patient care, so students who opt out of patient care will need to make up any missed hours later.
      - DACM students at off campus sites may opt to continue their existing rotations as long as the sites comply with County Department of Public Health recommendations and have the necessary equipment and supplies.
    - **Ayurveda** students can receive credit via patient care or virtual clinical activities so can choose between these options and continue to accumulate credits towards graduation.
    - There are no **Massage Therapy** students currently in clinic.

## CAMPUS SERVICES

- **During the online period**, students may choose to study from home or campus. Please exercise social distancing in whichever setting you choose.
- **The Learning Resource Center** will remain open at this time, and **university services** will continue.
- **Academic Support and Student Disability Services** will be open during this period.
- **The University Health Center** will be open as usual Mondays – Fridays 8 AM – 7 PM and Saturdays 9 AM – 5 PM.
  - Students who need medical services due to symptoms of respiratory illness including fever, cough, and shortness of breath/difficulty breathing should first call the Health Center at (562) 943-7125 for further instructions before presenting.
- **Work-study student workers** will receive more information from their direct supervisors about work expectations during this period.
- **Work-study supervisors** will receive guidance from Human Resources this week.

Thank you for your understanding during these trying times. We can get through this together as a community.

## FACULTY & STAFF

Additionally, on the staff and faculty side, in conjunction with the above student-focused measures:

- **Faculty should be on campus as normally scheduled** for training and to prepare for this transition into the "online period." Training will occur on Monday 3/16 and Tuesday 3/17 from 10 AM – 12 PM.
- **Faculty may provide instruction remotely during the online period with supervisor approval.**
- **Staff should be prepared to work from campus for the remainder of this week and during the online period unless directed otherwise by a supervisor.**
- **All employees**, whether on campus or remote, should practice social distancing and follow hygiene and public health recommendations. The University Health Center is also a resource for any SCU employee who would like personalized immune-boosting or health-creation advice.

In summary, we are taking steps to minimize uncertainty and anxiety within our campus community. The University will remain open with operations and services continuing with modifications to reduce any health risks while still providing exceptional education and healthcare services.

Sincerely,



John Scaringe, DC, EdD  
President/CEO