

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT COOK: UPDATED OPERATIONAL CHANGES

March 19, 2020

Dear Warner Pacific Community,

Thank you for your grace and patience as the university responds to the dynamic and unfolding public health crisis surrounding the spread of COVID-19. We are grateful to share that we are currently unaware of any confirmed cases of the virus within the Warner Pacific community.

This is a situation unlike any in our experience. While we all wish that we could continue operations and education as we have in the past, the necessity of taking all actions possible to slow the spread of the COVID-19 brings about a different reality for this season.

We promised to keep you informed as the guidance from local, state and federal authorities unfolds.

Thursday, March 19, Governor Kate Brown's office informed college and university presidents that she is planning on issuing an Executive Order related to higher education institutions in the state of Oregon. In doing so, Governor Brown noted the unique role of higher education in our state and made the following statement:

"Oregonians are depending on colleges and universities to remain operational to the greatest extent possible consistent with protecting public health, including thousands of students who expect to graduate in Spring 2020.

Oregon colleges and universities can maintain academic continuity for many students by conducting courses through remote and online learning.

Many Oregon colleges and universities provide essential housing, food, health care, and related services for students who have no other way to access those services, including international students and foster youth.

Consistent with the mitigation strategies recommended by CDC with regard to COVID-19, in order to slow the spread of the disease, and to protect Oregonians at the highest risk of contracting the disease, I find it is necessary to immediately implement measures for significantly reducing in-person operations at Oregon colleges and universities."

The Executive Order that applies to Warner Pacific University and other independent colleges and universities in the state says in part:

- Pursuant to my (Governor Brown) emergency powers under ORS 433.441(3)(a) and (d), ORS 401.175(1), and ORS 401.188(2) and (3), it is ordered that colleges and universities shall be prohibited from conducting in-person classroom, laboratory, and other instruction from March 21, 2020, through April 28, 2020 (“effective period”), unless that period is extended or terminated earlier by the Governor.
- Colleges and universities are exempt from the requirements in the above paragraph for the purposes of providing clinical, laboratory, or other in-person instruction associated with courses required for the completion of a health care-related certificate, license, or degree, or other certificates, licenses or degrees that are essential to emergency response and resiliency efforts, where no remote or online alternative is practicable. When conducting any in-person instruction permitted under this paragraph, colleges and universities should employ social distancing measures, consistent with guidance from the Oregon Health Authority.
- During the effective period, colleges and universities shall limit on-campus operations only to critical functions and shall employ social distancing measures, consistent with guidance from the Oregon Health Authority, for all on-campus employees and residents. Critical functions may include but are not limited to, the operation of dormitories, dining services, general administrative services, safety programs, childcare centers, research and medical facilities and other activities critical to emergency response and resiliency efforts.

Due to these orders, significant operational changes are called for at this time. These changes include extending online instruction through the end of the semester, postponement of Commencement ceremonies, and moving most of campus services to remote delivery through the end of April. Throughout this period, Warner Pacific University will continue working to ensure the health and safety of all students and employees. Please see information below that provides many details as to the changes in operation.

I am grateful for each member of the Warner Pacific University community. While all of us wishes the circumstances were different and that we could proceed as we are accustomed, it is imperative that we continue to stay connected to one another as we can. The Warner Pacific University community is a unique place where a relationships and our care for one another are strong. Even in this unusual and unprecedented time, we can communicate, encourage, and pray for one another. Let’s all do all we can to make the very best out of the challenges that we face together.

God bless you and keep you safe in the days ahead. We will continue to communicate as needed in the weeks to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea Cook".

Andrea P. Cook Ph.D.
President

GUIDANCE AND PROTOCOLS FOR STUDENTS AND WP PERSONNEL (INCLUDING FACULTY):

ALL OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION WITH STUDENTS AND FROM WP PERSONNEL (INCLUDING FACULTY) WILL TAKE PLACE VIA STUDENTS' ASSIGNED WARNER PACIFIC EMAIL ADDRESS.

Students are responsible to regularly check their email and to communicate consistently with the professors between now and May 24, 2020.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact the office phone number or university email of the employee listed. Employees are expected to regularly check voice messages on the university phones and emails, and will respond promptly to correspondence.

Academic Instruction: (Questions: Reginald Nichols, 503-517-1221 or rnichols@warnerpacific.edu , or Lori Jass, 503-517-1320, or ljass@warnerpacific.edu)

Professional and Graduate Studies: Online instruction, which began on March 16 for Undergraduate PGS students, will continue through May 24, 2020. Online instruction for Graduate PGS students, which began on March 16, will continue through May 10, 2020. Updates regarding possibility of extending online delivery will be sent as the current crisis continues to unfold.

Traditional Program: For our traditional students, online instruction will begin on March 30 and will be extended through the end of the semester, which is May 8, 2020. For these students, the final exams will also be completed by May 8, 2020. Warner Pacific is committed to delivering all credits and courses, therefore regular semester tuition and attendance policies are in effect.

Students and faculty must be in regular contact.

Over the past couple of weeks, faculty members have been working hard to transition your courses to remote/online formats. I am guessing that this may be a steep learning curve for some students. Please communicate well and often, and hang in there. Keep learning and exploring this new way of educational delivery. We believe our students have the grit and persistence to be successful. You have shown us your courage and determination, and we know they will serve you well in this season.

Stick to social distancing.

While you may feel fine and think that you are not vulnerable because of your age or health...remember you are not immune, and you could be a carrier of the virus that might infect someone else. Please adhere to the social distancing guidelines of remaining at least 6 feet apart, and – please don't congregate together. Instead keep up with friends over social media or by other virtual means. Many of you are much more adept than some of us who are not digital natives, but we will be learning.

Oregon's Governor has required the cancelation of all events and gatherings larger than 25 people – exempting essential locations like workplaces, grocery stores, pharmacies, and retail stores. It's additionally recommended that Oregonians avoid gatherings of 10 people or more.

Commencement and Awards Chapel

In light of recent recommendations related to slowing the spread of the COVID-19 virus, the Spring 2020 Warner Pacific University Commencement Ceremony scheduled for May 9 has been postponed.

A rescheduled ceremony will be arranged at a later date that has yet to be determined. All students who were eligible to participate in the Spring 2020 Commencement Ceremony will be eligible for participation in the rescheduled ceremony. We have not yet determined the method and timing for distributing regalia and diplomas; various options are being considered. We will provide students with updates about the commencement ceremony as plans develop.

We wish we could give you the answers we all desperately want. There is one promise we will make – you will have a commencement. While the date, format, etc. may have to change, there will be an opportunity at which we will proudly, and with great joy, celebrate your achievements.

Academic Advising: (Questions: Marlo Waters, 503-517-1012, or mwaters@warnerpacific.edu, or Kirby Gleason, 503-517-1322 or kgleason@warnerpacific.edu)

Academic advising for the 2020-21 academic year will take place as scheduled:

- Next year's seniors' registration will begin on Monday, April 6, 2020
- All other returning students' registration will begin on Monday, April 13, 2020
- Instructions will be sent to students to inform them of the process to complete registration
- Students and advisors will need to work together to set up remote advising appointments

Support Services: (Questions: Felita Singleton, fsingleton@warnerpacific.edu; Janice Nehren, jnehren@warnerpacific.edu; Gene Hall, ghall@warnerpacific.edu, or Jann McCaul, jmccaul@warnerpacific.edu)

Support services such as Counseling, Academic Tutoring and Mentoring, Success and Retention, Disabilities Resources, and more will remain available through phone, video conferencing, and potential in-person meetings. Students may contact the relevant departments to schedule appointments in advance.

Housing and Meal Plans (Questions, contact: Jessica Richards, jrichards@warnerpacific.edu, or Jon Sampson, jsampson@warnerpacific.edu)

We recognize that these changes may raise more questions about student housing and meal plans for the rest of the semester. Understanding that many students rely on campus housing as their primary residence during the academic year, we are committed to maintaining housing as an option for students. We are also working closely with our dining service provider and will have additional information available by next Tuesday. Until then, questions may be directed toward the contacts above.

Faith and Service Requirements: (Questions: Michelle Lang Raymond, 503-517-1190 or mlang@warnerpacific.edu; or LaSondra Barnes, lbarnes@warnerpacific.edu)

We acknowledge the significant number of transitions this season has brought in your lives. As you are working to serve families, friends, and those around you, take care of your own health, and move to online learning, we are placing a hold on all faith and service requirements for the Spring semester.

Any chapel and sessions attendance and any service already completed will therefore fulfill the requirement for Spring 2020. We ask that you please submit any service already completed at <https://wpulife.com/warner-pacific-service-form>.

We will continue to provide ways to engage faith together through QuiX and other resources at <https://www.facebook.com/WarnerPacificLife>. Campus Pastor Michelle and other Student Life staff are also available for phone or video meetings.

Library: (Questions: Lishi Kwasitsu, 503-514-1023 or lkwasitsu@warnerpacific.edu)

The Library schedule has moved to summer hours (Monday – Friday, 9:00 – 5:00 PM) and continue those hours until further notice. Dr. Kwasitsu will deploy staff as needed for on-site or from home

- The Library will provide an equitable space for students who do not have computers at home and need to have access to technology or Wi-Fi
- Librarians will troubleshoot any library access glitches that might occur when teaching moves online and support faculty as they integrate online materials into their online instruction

The library will abide by the following protocols during these hours:

- No more than 10 students (excluding student workers) can occupy the library at any given time.
- Computers and all technology will be sanitized after each use
- All doors and hardware will be wiped down each day
- Everyone (including student workers and patrons) will follow social distancing protocols

Labs, Training, and Field Trips (Questions: Beth DuPriest, at 503-517-1072 or bdupriest@warnerpacific.edu)

- The Natural Science and Health Department on lab setup and schedules for students beginning March 30. Schedules will be provided by faculty members or please contact Dr. DuPriest.
- **Malheur Field Trip:**
- Due to the guidance issued by the Governor and the Oregon Health Authority regarding social distancing and in-person instruction, the Malheur Field Tripp that was scheduled in April, has been canceled. (Questions: Brad Tripp, 503-517-1070, or btripp@warnerpacific.edu, or Marlo Waters, 503-517-1012 or mwaters@warnerpacific.edu)

Nursing Labs: (Questions: Linda Campbell at 503-517-1040 or lscampbell@warnerpacific.edu)

Nursing Simulation and Skills labs, and clinical assignments that use Center 205 and all laboratories at the Mt. Tabor Campus:

Due to the provision extended to us through the Governor’s Executive Order, Warner Pacific University will adhere to the following protocols for all clinical, laboratory, or other in-person instruction associated with courses required for the completion of a health-care related license or degree, where no remote or online alternative is practicable:

- Students and faculty may complete in person lab work consistent with the group gathering provisions of less than 10 (Including the faculty or lab manager) in the lab at each session.
- All in-person lab instruction must comply with the social distancing measures and all health guidance requirements from the Oregon Health Authority.
- All instruments and lab equipment must be cleaned after each using the cleaning and disinfecting stations provided in each lab.

- Anyone who is sick or showing any signs of illness will be excluded from the labs.

Buildings: (Questions: Daniel Robles, 503-517-1219 or drobles@warnerpacific.edu, Campus Security, 503-250-1730, or Dean Jenks, 503-517-1093 or djenks@warnerpacific.edu)

Access to all buildings except the dining hall and library will be restricted to employees or student employees whose offices or labs are in those buildings or to employees providing support for those buildings, unless an exception is granted by the area vice president.

Athletics: (Questions: Mike Wilson, 503-517-1261, or mewilson@warnerpacific.edu, or Matt Gregg, 503-517-1370, or mgregg@warnerpacific.edu)

All athletic practices are canceled immediately through the end of the semester. No spring practices are allowed for out of season sports.

On March 16th the NAIA issued a statement regarding the cancelation of the remainder of the Spring Sports Seasons. In an effort to provide relief, no spring sport student-athlete will be charged a season of competition. Any spring sport student-athlete who was enrolled full-time in 2020 will be awarded two additional semesters of attendance or the equivalent.

Along with the rest of campus, the C.C. Perry Gymnasium and fitness center is closed to all but key personnel through April 28, 2020.

Center 205: (Questions: Lori Jass at 503-517-1320 or ljass@warnerpacific.edu)

- Will close for normal operations as per the notice.
- All operations for the university take place at the Mt. Tabor campus
- Some students will come in for DSST exams on Thursday (3/19) - (2 groups of 4 students each).

Events and Admissions Visits (Events: Stephanie Harvey, 503-517-1026 or sdharvey@warnerpacific.edu, or Admission Visits: Nicki Greer, 503-517-1304 or ngreer@warnerpacific.edu)

All university events are canceled immediately through the end of the semester.

All large admissions events, including spring Campus Preview and the Achievement Ceremony, are canceled. Individual admission or athletics visits may be available. To schedule a campus visit please contact the Admission Office by calling 503-517-1020 or emailing admissions@warnerpacific.edu. The WPU admissions team is excited to offer phone and video visits while limiting individual admission and athletic visits. Any in-person visits will follow social distancing protocols.

Admitted and prospective students will receive additional, ongoing communication from Admission and Financial Aid staff.

As the additional information is available regarding the guidance and orders related to COVID-19 detains and related WP decisions will be shared with the University community.