

March 24, 2020

Greetings Pilgrim Nation,

We are writing with some important updates for members of the College Community. This will be a lengthy message, so please read through to the end. We have organized this message thematically for quick reference.

Spring 2020 Semester and Commencement

First, in consultation with the senior team, the board of trustees, and other institutional leaders, we have made the determination that New England College will complete the Spring 2020 academic semester remotely.

Second, all face-to-face events planned for the remainder of this term, will either be conducted virtually, rescheduled, or cancelled. Please stay tuned for updates about specific events from our team. We will communicate via email, social media, and on our website. Please be sure to check in often on these platforms.

Third, the 73rd Commencement of New England College scheduled to take place on May 9, 2020 will go forward virtually. As you can imagine, there is a tremendous amount of planning involved in any Commencement exercise. Transitioning to a virtual format adds some additional layers of complexity. We will be reaching out to you with details as we more fully develop these plans.

We are committed to making this commencement a true celebration of the accomplishments of our graduating students. Still, we know virtual graduation will not be the same as a live commencement. So, we invite all members of the Class of 2020 to participate virtually this May AND to join us for Commencement 2021 just over a year from now on the Simon Green. To be more precise, we are inviting both the Class of 2020 and 2021 to don your robes, march in the procession, cross the stage and receive your diploma and the well wishes of President Perkins!

An Update from Academic Affairs

Throughout the process of transitioning to remote education, Dr. Lesperance has said that our goal is to do no harm to our students' educational goals. The faculty and the academic success staff have embraced this approach whole heartedly and have consistently worked in an extraordinary manner to meet our students where they are to support their success. To this end, we are pleased to announce the following:

- For the Spring 2020 term, we will extend the Pass/No Record option for undergraduate residential students. Specifically, if a student has concern about their academic performance in any course that has transitioned to remote delivery, they may connect with their faculty member to determine whether or not a P/NR option is appropriate. An online form will be

- made available to students, faculty, and staff which must be completed to exercise this option.
- Students who have returned home, where there is a significant time difference, have had faculty work to accommodate their time zones. If you have concerns about this, please reach out to your professor and I'm sure they will be happy to work with you.
 - Students who encounter any other barriers or obstacles to their success in the classroom should share that information with their faculty or advisor. We have been very successful in overcoming most of the obstacles presented.

An Update from Student Development

Students Opting to Head Home

If a student chooses to head home given the news regarding classes remaining remotely facilitated for the remainder of the semester, please bring all of your belongings with you, if possible. If it is not possible, you must notify Residential Life at reslife@nec.edu that you are leaving items behind to be picked up by the end of the semester following the process mentioned below. Friends/family coming to pick up students should not enter the residence halls except to assist in carrying belongings outside.

Students who left Belongings in the Residence Halls

Information will be sent out to residential students next week regarding the process to retrieve belongings left behind in the residence halls. Because we need to limit the number of folks in a residence hall at any given time in compliance with proper social distancing, students will need to sign up for a day/time to retrieve their belongings. This process will begin as soon as possible and run through the end of the semester. Our goal is to have that process be as smooth as possible for all involved. *Students may not return to retrieve belongings without explicit written permission from the College.*

Students Staying on Campus

The Governor of New Hampshire has reminded everyone in the state that unnecessary travel around our communities should not take place. As an important reminder, all students who have chosen to stay on campus must follow the following protocols:

- Students staying on campus *should only travel off campus for essential reasons* such as work, to go to the grocery store, pharmacy, or important appointments. Students are not permitted to return to campus after overnight trips or trips out of the state of New Hampshire.
- *Absolutely no guests are allowed on campus* except those here to pick up students to go home. This includes commuters or students who have moved home/off-campus. Those coming to pick up students should not enter the residence halls except to assist in carrying belongings outside.
- Students should practice social distancing – the CDC recommends keeping at least 6 feet of distance with others in public, social settings, etc.

- Remember that all policies and procedures are in place and we expect students to follow policies completely. Area Coordinators and RAs are on campus and ready to assist you! Please look for signs in your residence hall about how to contact those staff members.

Students who are found not following these guidelines will be asked to leave campus immediately.

Housing Selection

Information regarding Room Selection will be sent to students at the end of this week. *Students, please be sure to be checking your email daily for important updates.*

Update on Dining Hall Hours

To continue to keep students safe, as well as the staff in the dining halls, the hours for food take-out **will move to 11:00 am – 6:00 pm effective Friday, March 27th.** Students will have the option to take a breakfast meal with them the night before to ensure they have food available for breakfast.

Sincerely,

The New England College Senior Team