



## College Brief

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### **Fall 2020, Wintersession, and Spring 2021 Initial Campus Operating Guidelines for SUNY Suffolk**

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In light of the SUNY Chancellor's end of semester directive to all SUNY campuses and the Governor's announcement calling for major shifts to wintersession and the spring semester, I am sending this College Brief to the community so that all of us will be aware of our College's initial plans and can work together to ensure that our operations continue to run smoothly and our students, faculty, and staff can remain healthy and safe. The following information represents our direction at this point in time. Please be aware that our plans remain subject to change based on future decisions made by the College, SUNY, and by our elected officials.

#### **Fall Semester 2020**

Our Academic Calendar will continue to operate through to its stated last day of the fall semester, which is Wednesday, December 23, 2020.

SUNY has advised all campuses of their expectation that all students who are taking at least one class on campus, utilizing on-campus services like the library, or practicing with an athletic team, will receive a COVID-19 test just prior to departing for the Thanksgiving break. In our case, this testing will take place by November 24<sup>th</sup> at the latest, in accordance with the College's saliva testing schedule.

When students return to campus after Thanksgiving break (Monday, November 30<sup>th</sup>), classes and labs will continue to run as stipulated in our SUNY-approved plan, following the various instructional delivery methods already in place: Online, Real-Time Online, Combined Online, Blended, and a limited number of face-to-face classes that require hands-on instructional experiences to meet accreditation requirements. We will also continue to implement our daily health screening for all individuals on campus, for potential exposure after return from the Thanksgiving break.

The College has also determined that it will now add additional dates, through December 18<sup>th</sup>, to its schedule of pooled saliva testing. This more closely aligns with SUNY's timeline guidance for testing required at the conclusion of the fall semester. Faculty and staff are encouraged to take advantage of this time to test as well.

### **Wintersession 2020/2021**

Our Academic Calendar remains unchanged and Wintersession will start on December 28<sup>th</sup>. All classes will be delivered remotely. We are strongly suggesting that faculty and staff who will be working on campus be pre-tested before returning for wintersession.

### **Spring Semester 2021**

Our Academic Calendar **will** see some changes for the spring semester, in order for our College to conform with the State's directive. Based on that guidance, we have met with our bargaining units, academic and student affairs to discuss our plans for starting the spring 2021 semester.

All classes will begin January 25<sup>th</sup>. Exclusive of externally-accredited programs requiring clinical or laboratory experiences, classes will meet remotely. Beginning February 1<sup>st</sup>, our limited, previously scheduled face-to-face classes, will commence meeting on campus in line with SUNY's request.

Students who are on-campus in the spring, will be required to attest that they have completed a seven-day precautionary quarantine and must provide a negative COVID-19 test result prior to returning onto campus. All students, faculty, and staff must be pre-screened daily for travel history, COVID-19 history and COVID-19 symptoms for two (2) weeks prior to return. This will be done using the electronic daily health assessment form.

Given the current risks associated with COVID-19 spread, **spring break will be cancelled** and we will end the spring semester a week earlier, on May 11<sup>th</sup>. Also included within the SUNY guidance are the following:

- Faculty and staff who will be working on campus are strongly encouraged to be pre-tested before returning for the spring semester.
- Both mandatory pooled saliva testing for students and remote instructional delivery will continue for the spring 2021 semester.
- Commencement exercises will be considered in accordance with guidance from New York State. Campuses are being advised at this time to plan virtual commencements.

We will continue to socially distance and require face coverings at all times throughout this period. We will also continue to use our health screening tool and will continue to follow all other stated health precautions shared in the Return to Campus Guidelines for all individuals on campus. The SUNY system will prepare a plain language notice on "What Students Should Know" about testing, quarantine, compliance, and in person and remote classes so they can make informed decisions about their educational experience.

I would like to commend our community for its exceptional efforts to date. Mandatory COVID-19 pooled saliva testing for students has continued to take place college-wide. Through November 10<sup>th</sup>, the College has collected 3,381 samples and has only had two tests come back as positive.

I will continue to keep you updated regarding any further changes that are brought to our attention and appreciate your patience as we address the impact of these modifications.