

Subject: Covid-19 and Teaching Update #6

Date: Friday, April 3, 2020 at 12:01 PM

Dear Colleagues:

We've made it to the end of the first week of our transition to teaching online. Reports are that things are going well. What we are hearing clearly from students is that in this new environment, faculty are at the forefront of providing contact and stability. Now, more than ever, your role as mentors and role models is vital to the health and well-being of our community.

This update has information on resources and support for students including a summary of academic policy exceptions.

Please help us address some student concerns:

- Some students may have limited or no internet connectivity. A list of accommodations being made by internet and data providers, including free internet in some cases, has been compiled and can be found on Linfield's Coronavirus information page under FAQs: <https://www.linfield.edu/coronavirus-update.html>. Please refer students to these resources.
- Some students may not have access to a computer. There is a limited supply of iPads available for students to check out. Please let us know if you have a student with this need.
- Some students have expressed concern about little or no live contact with faculty and classmates in courses. Providing recorded lectures, utilizing Blackboard for discussions, assignments, and assessments, and use of email for individual interactions are all appropriate means of providing the content of courses. However, some students crave live interaction. All faculty are **strongly encouraged** to provide periodic live interaction with students, especially in these first few weeks in this new environment.

Covid-19 Temporary Academic Policies were discussed at Monday's Division meetings and approved for adoption. These four policies go into effect immediately.

- Policy #1: *The last day to withdraw from a course will be extended two weeks from Friday, April 24, 2020 to Friday, May 8, 2020. Students must submit by the deadline the electronic "REG Add/Drop/Withdraw" form found on the Registrar's website*

- Policy #2: *The deadline for completion of work for fall semester, 2019, and January term, 2020 incomplete grades can be extended from April 15, 2020, to as late as May 29, 2020 as deemed appropriate by the instructor of the course (without petition).*
- Policy #3: *A moratorium will be placed on Academic Suspensions for spring, 2020*
- Policy #4: *Students may elect to change their final course grading method from traditional grading (A, B, C, etc.) to Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) for each course they take in spring, 2020. The deadline for this irrevocable election is June 12, 2020.*

More information including FAQ's will be posted on the Registrar's page.

Thank you for all your work to address these urgent issues. If there are other questions and thoughts, please let me know. Keep checking [here](#) for academic information.

Take Good Care,
Susan

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