



Statement to the St. Louis College of Pharmacy Community

DATE: Monday, April 13, 2020
TO: All Students, All Faculty, All Staff
FROM: John A. Pieper, Pharm.D., FCCP, FAPhA, President of the College
RE: Important COVID-19 Updates and Announcements

Students, Faculty and Staff:

I hope this message finds you well.

I have been closely monitoring our transition to online learning and remote work, and while it has not been without challenges, I thank you for your incredible creativity and commitment as we navigate these changes together. I am confident that the changes we have implemented are in the best interests of your health and safety, but these days of not seeing you all on campus are long, and I look forward to being together again soon.

Before I share updates with you, I want to commend the members of our community who are working selflessly and tirelessly on the front lines of the pandemic. Across our community, we are witnessing examples of leadership and care that are truly inspirational.

I have learned of students who are working long hours to support the delivery of patient care, even while navigating online learning. Among our faculty and alumni, pharmacists are staffing intensive care units, working tirelessly to provide remote access to care for patients, and volunteering to work on clinical crisis teams to care for COVID-19 patients. Our staff, in addition to the leadership they bring to their communities, are redoubling our commitment to student success by retooling services to support students virtually.

I thank each and every one of you for showing the world what the St. Louis College of Pharmacy community is made of. You are an inspiration.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact communities across the country, we are making additional changes to ensure the health and safety of our College community.

Commencement

The event ban issued by St. Louis city and county and the risks associated with large gatherings will prevent us from holding our Commencement as it was scheduled. In recent weeks, we have sought input from graduating students on how to approach Commencement, and I thank each of you who provided feedback.

Based on those conversations, we have decided to postpone our 2020 Commencement to Saturday, Sept. 5. At this time, we are planning to hold the ceremony on campus. This resolution was not the first choice for everyone who provided input, but across the board, this decision aligns with the desires of the greatest number of students.

More information and instructions will be distributed by the Office of Institutional Events in the coming weeks. Additionally, attached to this email please find a list of Frequently Asked Questions that will provide more information.

Summer Session

After carefully reviewing the latest situation update and trends in the St. Louis area, we have decided to move all summer session courses online. More information will be shared in the coming weeks by the Office of the Registrar.

Although summer session will be offered online, the residence halls will remain closed to students this summer, except for those with extenuating circumstances. For more information, please contact Maryam Ouechani, coordinator of residential life, at maryam.ouechani@stlcop.edu.

Credits for Housing and Other Expenses

In my March 27 message to students, I shared that the College is working to provide prorated credits for relevant expenses including housing, meal plans, parking expenses, and a portion of the One Fee.

The Business Office has been working diligently to calculate and process these credits. It is an immense task, and they are making quick progress. All credits will be posted to student's accounts no later than Monday, April 20.

These adjustments can be applied to a current balance or offset costs during the upcoming term. If you are a student who will no longer be attending the College following this semester, please contact Wendy Koelling at wendy.koelling@stlcop.edu, senior accountant, or Kayla Reynolds, assistant vice president for finance, at kayla.reynolds@stlcop.edu to discuss alternative options.

We also understand that the financial impact of the pandemic has been significant for some students. If you are a student who believes your situation warrants a different course of action, or if you are facing a financial emergency, contact Dr. Heather French, vice president for student affairs, at heather.french@stlcop.edu.

Again, I thank you for your patience, flexibility and commitment to the College. The coming weeks will not be easy, but together we will meet the challenge head on, and we will get through this.

The College's leadership team is closely monitoring updates, and I will share more information with you as it becomes available.

Continue to monitor your College email and stlcop.edu/covid19 for updates.