

Statement to the St. Louis College of Pharmacy Community

DATE: Friday, July 24, 2020
TO: All Students
FROM: John A. Pieper, Pharm.D., FCCP, FAPhA, President of the College
RE: Important Updates for the Fall 2020 Semester

Dear Students:

As you know, Dr. Heather French, vice president for student affairs, shared with you earlier this month our Return-to-Campus Plan for Students. Along with that document, we indicated more information would be forthcoming regarding fall course delivery. We receive new information every day, and our plans could continue to change as we prepare for the fall semester, but today, I can share information regarding our current approach to fall courses.

As a small, residential college, we strongly believe in the value of the relationships and learning that occur through face-to-face instruction — a belief that is well supported by literature and research. Even when course content can be delivered through web-based technologies, we believe the added value of an on-campus experience adds to the richness of your education and contributes to your growth as a future professional or health care provider charged with caring for patients, even in a pandemic environment.

We have worked hard throughout the summer to ensure that we can all return to campus safely for the start of the fall semester on August 17. We have implemented extensive precautions in alignment with recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention including:

- Requirements regarding face coverings, physical distancing, self-administered health screenings, and proper sanitization.
- Reconfiguring campus spaces and classrooms to support physical distancing, and the addition of physical barriers such as Plexiglas screens in spaces where physical distancing is a challenge.
- Adjusted building hours to allow time for deep cleaning of high-traffic and common spaces.
- Faculty will make lecture recordings or other materials available so that students can maintain progress, even in the event of COVID-19-related absences.

Our educational approach will continue to prioritize on-campus course delivery and engagement, and we are confident students and faculty can safely return to the classroom at this time. Detailed information on the steps we have taken to prepare for our return is available online at stlcop.edu/covid19.

We strongly believe we have prepared the safest possible environment and most “normal” experience for you that we can, but we know these are complicated decisions. Each member of our community

faces unique circumstances, and we know your return to campus is but one of your worries. We want you to be able to make the choices that are best for you and your family.

The feedback we have received indicates that most students desire a return to on-campus living and learning. However, if attending lectures virtually is a better fit for your personal needs, we have created an option that will provide additional flexibility during the fall 2020 semester. While courses will be delivered on campus, we will allow students to attend lectures virtually. Unless otherwise indicated by the instructor of an individual course, virtual attendance will be synchronous (i.e. participating in live lectures at the normally scheduled time).

Your decision to attend lectures virtually applies only to lecture attendance. Campus will be open, we will continue to prioritize on-campus delivery of courses, and campus services and resources remain accessible to all students. Each option is outlined below.

In-Person Lecture Attendance

- Students will attend lectures on campus at the designated days/times in the designated classroom as listed in the course syllabus.
- Students also will be expected to be on campus for lab sessions and lab courses, group activities, experiential activities and other activities as described in course syllabi.
- Most courses will be offered in person, though some specific courses, sections, or lessons may still be virtual. Students who choose to attend lectures in person should still expect that some content may be delivered online as determined by the instructor of the course.
- Students and faculty will adhere to all safety guidelines in the classroom, including face coverings, physical distancing and proper sanitization.

Virtual Lecture Attendance

- Students will attend lectures virtually, synchronously, at the designated days/times as listed in the course syllabus.
- Students who select this option will still be expected to be on-campus for lab sessions and lab courses, group activities, experiential activities and other activities that cannot be replicated online as described in course syllabi.

Students with underlying conditions should contact Kay Davis, assistant director for academic support, at kay.davis@stlcop.edu. Students experiencing childcare issues should contact their dean at deansoffice@stlcop.edu.

I know you will likely have more questions, including how you will declare your intentions for either in-person or virtual lectures, and we ask that you continue to be patient, flexible partners with us as we will be with you. More information will be coming from your dean soon, and it will include instructions for indicating your intentions for the fall.

Additionally, if you have further questions about these lecture delivery options or the return-to-campus plan, I invite you to attend the upcoming Student Forum on the Fall Return to Campus, via Microsoft Teams or by phone:

Student Forum on the Fall Return to Campus
Wednesday, July 29, 5-6 p.m.

[Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

[+1 573-355-9749](#) United States, Columbia (Toll)

Conference ID: 951 625 320#

I thank you for your patience, resilience and understanding as we navigate this challenging time together. I look forward to seeing you and connecting with you as we begin the 2020-21 academic year.