

Statement to the St. Louis College of Pharmacy Community

DATE: Monday, May 26, 2020
TO: All Students, All Faculty, All Staff
FROM: John A. Pieper, Pharm.D., FCCP, FAPhA, President of the College
RE: Important Campus and COVID-19 Updates

Students, Faculty and Staff:

I hope you enjoyed Memorial Day and were able to relax and connect with all the important people in your life. On Memorial Day, we honor those who have died while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. Please join me in recognizing all those who have bravely and selflessly served and sacrificed to ensure our freedom.

Today, I can share a few updates from campus with you.

CARES Act Funding for Students

Our Business Office team has been working diligently to distribute emergency grant checks allocated through the CARES Act to students. Thanks to their hard work, we are on track to have all funds distributed by June 1.

In addition to the CARES Act funding, our Students of Concern Committee continues to work closely with students facing financial or personal emergencies. Students, I encourage you to use this resource if you need it. We care about you, and we are here to support you during this difficult time.

Please contact Dr. Heather French, Ed.D., vice president for student affairs, at heather.french@stlcop.edu for more information.

Preparations for a Safe Return to Campus

Across campus, we are beginning to prepare for the return of our students, faculty and staff for the fall semester. Physical distancing is currently the most effective tool we have to ensure the health and safety of our campus community, and the following measures are being implemented:

- Rearranging classrooms and laboratories to align with physical distancing guidelines
- Evaluating laboratories and other high-traffic spaces for physical barriers
- Increased cleaning schedules in high-traffic and common spaces

In our residence halls, room assignments will be made to ensure that **all students living on campus are assigned to single bedrooms for the 2020-21 academic year**. While students may still have suitemates, there will be no doubles assigned for the coming year. The Office of Student Affairs will communicate additional precautions prior to fall move-in.

In addition to physical distancing, the College is working with several partners to secure materials such as disposable and cloth masks, cleaning supplies, hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes. We will share information on requesting these materials when it becomes available.

Return-to-Work Planning for Employees

As local and state governments are issuing their plans for reopening, we are carefully planning for our faculty and staff to return to campus. I will provide more information soon, and know that your health, safety and well-being are at the forefront of our thoughts as we develop plans. We know this is a challenging time, and you have gone above and beyond to support our students while also facing personal challenges and caring for your families. As we work to reconcile the recommendations and guidelines of St. Louis city, St. Louis area counties, Missouri and Illinois, know that we are taking a measured approach to reopening our campus.

We are thinking creatively and working to provide flexibility for our employees while also following physical distancing recommendations. Please monitor your email for more information.

Admissions Changes Related to COVID-19

The College is working hard to prepare for our incoming students in fall 2020. As you can imagine, students navigating the college search and decision process for this fall and next are facing new obstacles.

As schools across the country closed or moved to online learning, many prospective students were unable to access official documents such as transcripts and score reports. Additionally, testing agencies closed their doors and canceled spring testing dates.

To help new students navigate challenges outside of their control, our Office of Admissions is working to adjust our admissions process and provide the same excellent service in a virtual environment.

- Our application and deposit deadlines have moved to July 1.
- We're accepting unofficial documents for applications, and admissions is working with students to secure official documents prior to enrollment.
- We are waiving application and deposit fees for students in need.
- For fall 2020, we have gone test-optional for undergraduate and professional students, and we are making admission decisions through our holistic application review process. For undergraduate students, we will remain test-optional for fall 2021 admission as well.
- Events including Accepted Student Day, Lab Discovery Days and New Student Orientation have been transitioned to an online format.

Thank you to all the faculty, staff and students who have helped ensure that our incoming students feel the support of our community.

I hope you all have a great week and take care of yourselves. I will share more updates with you next week.

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