

# Assembly Higher Education Committee

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## Fall 2020: COVID-19 Update

[November 2020]

### 1) **Fall Re-Opening**

- a) Statewide Guidance for the Fall - On August 7, 2020, Governor Newsom released industry guidelines for [Institutions of Higher Education](#) (IHE). The guidelines and consideration were intended to help IHE and their community plan and prepare to resume in-person instruction.
- b) Are there additional guidelines for IHE's to follow? The [Center for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) issued guidelines for IHE](#) earlier in the year, which many IHE consulted when creating their own campus plans.
- c) Will IHEs be offering virtual or in-person instruction in the fall?
  - i) As of August 25<sup>th</sup> 2020, the vast majority of California Community Colleges (CCC), the entire California State University system (CSU), and the entire University of California (UC) system will be offering distance/online learning models for the fall term.
    - (1) While the majority of courses offered will be online, a select few that require in-person labs will be conducted on campus. Students are expected to wear masks and the labs have been re-arranged to accommodate 6-foot social distancing for all participants.
  - ii) As of August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020, the majority of independent universities are offering the same model as the public sector colleges. Stanford, University of Southern California, Scripps College, Azusa Pacific University, and Pepperdine University have all announced they will be offering online/distance education to students in the fall.

### 2) **Fall Enrollment**

- a) Were there any indications COVID-19 impacted students' college enrollment decision?

To better understand the impact of COVID-19 on enrollment decisions, the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) conducted a survey in spring 2020 to determine if high

school seniors and current college students had changed their fall 2020 college plans.

The survey determined the following:

- i) 80% of current college students responded that they had either changed an aspect of their fall 2020 plans or were uncertain of their fall plan; 15% were still unsure about where they were going to attend college in the fall; and 2.4% were no longer planning to attend college in the fall.
- ii) 9% of high school seniors surveyed expressed they planned to delay their college enrollment; and based on responses, more high school seniors indicated they were likely to enroll in the California Community College (CCC) due to the pandemic.

Based on data from the CSAC Student Survey and historical data of increased enrollment at the CCC during a recession, the general prediction of enrollment trends for Fall 2020 was an increase in enrollment at the CCC and a decrease in enrollment at all other segments.

b) *Preliminary Data on Fall Enrollment. The enrollment figures below are preliminary and are subject to change as the systems continue to collect and finalize their fall enrollment data.*

- i) California Community Colleges (CCC) – Districts have until January 15<sup>th</sup> to tabulate and report actual headcount and full-time equivalent student (FTES) data for the fall 2020 term; however, preliminary data collected from an enrollment survey suggests enrollment is down by an estimated 7% for fall 2020. Based on the sample, provided by the survey, FTES enrollment is down by an estimated 10%. The survey indicates two pattern emerge which explain the decline in enrollment: students are taking fewer courses and students with dependent children are facing greater challenges during the pandemic.
- ii) California State University (CSU) – The California State University Office of the Chancellor continues to collect and disaggregate enrollment data from the 23 campuses. Preliminary data indicates the system has enrolled a total of 485,550 students for the fall 2020 term, an increase of 3,621 students when compared with fall 2019 enrollment. Early reports indicated several campuses saw record high enrollment, including Fresno State, Sacramento State, and CSU Bakersfield.

Enrollment data will be finalized and reported at the November Board of Trustees Meeting.

- iii) University of California (UC) – Preliminary data from the UC accounts for no decline in enrollment systemwide for California residents. Early figures stipulate the UC will surpass the State’s target for enrollment by thousands of students. While the UC has seen a decrease in enrollment of non-resident students for the fall term, the UC remains optimistic that some of these students will return for the winter and spring term.
- iv) Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities (AICCU) – Early in the fall term, the AICCU conducted a survey of their colleges and universities to determine the impact of COVID -19 on enrollment. 56 institutions responded, representing 91% of the undergraduate programs represented by the AICCU. Data from the survey revealed student enrollment and matriculation were lower for new students, continuing students, and transfer students. While a few institutions reported growth in enrollment, the medium decline in enrollment was 7% when compared to fall 2019 enrollment data. Furthermore, the majority of institutions are experiencing an increase in students postponing their enrollment until spring 2021 or fall 2021.
- v) National Trends – Early in October, the [National Student Clearinghouse](#) released national data regarding fall 2020 enrollment trends. Nationally, undergraduate enrollment is down 4% compared to last year’s levels, while graduate enrollment increased by 2.7% overall. Nationally, undergraduate enrollment in public two-year institutions has decreased by 9.4%, while public 4-year universities have seen a decrease of 1.4%. When examining state-wide data, the National Student Clearinghouse reports California has seen an overall decrease of 4.7% in undergraduate enrolled, but has seen an increase in graduate enrollment of 2% when compared to fall 2019.

**3) Students****a) Are any IHEs permitting students to live on campus?**

- i) CCC – Of the 11 community colleges that offer housing to their students, only Sierra College has elected to close their dormitories. The other 10 community colleges are offering housing to students, but have significantly limited the capacity of the dorms in order to maintain social distancing as recommended by the issued industry guidelines.
- ii) CSU – With the exception of Cal State LA, all CSU campuses will be offering student housing in a reduced capacity this fall.
- iii) UC – Each campus has a different plan for re-opening their facilities to students. UC Berkeley, UC Irvine, UC Riverside, UC Santa Barbara, UC Santa Cruz, UCLA, and UC San Diego are all offering housing in limited capacity. As of September 3, UC Davis has yet to confirm if students will have housing on campus due to pending approval from the city and county.
- iv) Independent Colleges and Universities – At this time each campus has a different plan for students to return to campus. The following campuses have closed their dorms to all students except for those with a demonstrated financial need (ie homeless students or foster youth) Stanford, Pepperdine, USC, Scripps College, and Santa Clara University.

**b) Are Student Services still available to students even if the campus is closed?**

- i) Health Centers and Mental Health Services –
  - (1) CCC – Depending on the district, some colleges have kept their health service centers and mental health centers open for in-person visitations. Otherwise all services have been transitioned to an online platform to ensure students continue to have the services they need during the pandemic.
  - (2) CSU - Campus health centers remain open to students and staff for medical assistance. Depending on the campus, mental health services are offered either virtually or in-person by appointment only.
  - (3) UC – Campus health centers remain open and mental health services are available for in-person visits or virtually through telehealth options.

## ii) CALFRESH and food pantries –

- (1) Food Pantries - The CCC, CSU, and UC have engaged in creative food pantry alternatives to ensure students are able to access food in a safe manner. Some conduct “drive-by” food pantries where students place their orders online and are drive by the campus to pick up their order. Others supply students with grocery gift cards. Other have visitation by appointment to limit the number of students and to enable time to clean between visits.
- (2) CalFresh Benefits – Students are able to apply for CalFresh benefits online through either their campuses website or directly on the Calfresh webpage. The executive order which enabled recipients of Calfresh to receive benefits without interruption or need for re-certification expired in June. Furthermore, the Governor has not waived the work requirement that exists for college students who apply and are provided Cal Fresh.

## iii) Technology Resources Available to Students:

- (1) CCC – Community College students are encouraged to reach out to their local institution to see if any laptops through the loaner programs are available. The [CCC have partnered with an array of technology providers](#) to supply students with free or reduced cost reliable internet access. Furthermore some colleges have begun to loan out computers from their computer labs to students in need of support.
- (2) CSU – At the beginning of the pandemic, CSU campuses mobilized and provided technology to students. The CSU continues to seek local partnerships and gifts to enhance online and distance learning including the most recent gift of 2,300 Logitech headsets which will be distributed to the 23 CSU campuses for distribution to students in need.
- (3) UC – With virtually every campus offering virtual learning in the fall, the UC has established programs to provide hotspots, laptops, and technology to students who otherwise would not have access to their courses.

- c) Since the majority of IHE have elected to offer online learning in the fall, are students requesting a reduction in tuition or have any IHE offered to reduce tuition for students?
- i) The CSU and the UC have refunded or provided students a pro-rated refund for housing and food costs for any expenses incurred during the spring for students did not live on campus.
  - ii) On April 27, 2020 the CSU and the UC were sued by students demanding refunds of campus fees since the pandemic closed schools and forced learning online. These students asserted that campus fees are relegated to services that are no longer being provided to them since the campuses are closed. The CSU and UC have contended that campuses have transitioned to offering services online that are provided by portions of the student services fees.
  - iii) [Various Independent Universities](#) throughout the nation have received similar class action lawsuits asking for repayment of tuition and other costs due to COVID -19 related campus closures. In response to the wave of students requesting a reduction in tuition costs, Georgetown, Princeton, Spelman College and Clark Atlanta University have all provided students a 10% cut in tuition.
- d) Are students who moved home concerned about the financial cost of returning to campus?
- i) According to a [student survey conducted by the California Student Aid Commission](#), over 70% of current students lost some of their sources of income as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The survey found that for many students, their fall college plans have changed due to their need to work more or their need to attend a less expensive college due to a reduction in funds.
- e) Are student who worked on campus continuing to receive compensation despite the shut-down?
- i) CSU- According to Chancellor White on April 7<sup>th</sup>, all student employees who are employed by the campus will receive administrative leave for the same hours and rates they would have earned if they worked on campus. Up to 126 hours of work.

#### **4) Classified Employees**

##### *a) Outcome of Contract Negotiations at the CSU/UC*

- i) CSU - On May 18<sup>th</sup>, the CSU announced they had reached an agreement to extend the existing collective bargaining agreement (CBA) with its largest classified employee union, the California State University Employees Union (CSUEU), through June 30, 2022. The CBA does not include salary raises for employees of the CSUEU, represents 16,000 CSU employees.
- ii) UC – On April 2<sup>nd</sup>, President Napolitano and all ten chancellors committed to not propose pandemic related layoffs until June 30<sup>th</sup>, despite campus closures. . [For the fall 2020 term, UC campuses announced temporary layoffs for some of their operational staff.](#) These layoffs were designated as temporary and unemployed staff are entitled to health benefits and unemployment insurance.
  - (1) Additionally, the UC has implemented system wide salary freezes for staff and faculty and a 10% cut in pay for President Napolitano and current campus chancellors.

#### **5) Faculty**

##### *a) What will occur to assistant professors who are seeking tenure, whose research was delayed due to COVID-19?*

- i) CSU - As of April 7<sup>th</sup> – Chancellor White said that the CSU is not going to let the pandemic hurt the professional lives of faculty. Each CSU campus is capable of pausing tenure clocks in order to render harmless those who are seeking tenure. Chancellor White said they are aware of the problem but have yet to work out the details.
- ii) UC - As of August 27 – UC faculty have two options in addressing the impact of COVID 19 in their pursuit of tenure. Either they can elect to have the tenure clock stopped temporarily or they can elect to continue with a merit review and should it be found COVID-19 had an impact on their productivity/research, they will be eligible for a one-time equivalent step towards tenure.

**6) Financial Aid**

- a) Federal Student Loans – On August 8, President Trump issued an [executive order](#) providing an extension of the Student Loan Payment Relief, which provides deferments to borrowers as necessary to continue the temporary cessation of payments and waiver of all interest on student loans held by the USDE until December 21, 2020.
- b) Pell Grant – Students who received Pell Grants for the spring semester or quarter will not have the Pell Grant counted towards their lifetime limit; there has been no talk whether this will extend for the fall semester.
- c) GI Bill for Vets – Students will be able to receive benefits until the end of the year.
- d) Federal Work-Study Programs – If a student was enrolled in a federal work-study program, the campus is to continuing paying the student’s salary until the end of the spring term per federal regulations. This does not apply for the fall term.
- e) Private Loans – as of April 23- Executive Order N 57 -20 – The 1.1 million Californians who have private student loans have received a reprieve from their private loans in the following manners: 90 days forbearance, waiving late payment fees, helping eligible borrowers enroll in other assistance programs, and no borrowers will be subject to negative credit reporting.

**7) California Community Colleges**

- a) How much CARES aid did the California Community Colleges receive for their students?
  - i) The CCC received \$580 million in CARES funds from the Federal Government.
- b) Are apprenticeships continuing to be offered through the CCC?
  - i) According to the [Apprenticeship Initiative in California](#), various apprenticeship programs have shifted their programs online to allow students to finish their program.
- c) Are refunds being issued to students who are/were enrolled in Career Technical Education courses? Some CCC have elected to offer refunds to students who dis-enroll due to courses not being offered online (ie. Some Career Technical Education courses). Steps have been taken in the fall term to provide Career Technical Education Courses on campus with safety measures such as 6-foot distance and enhanced cleaning of facilities.



**8) California State University (CSU)**

- a) [Tuition Increase](#) – As of August 20, 2020, the Chancellor of the CSU confirmed tuition will not change in the 2020-2021 school year. It will neither increase nor decrease for students who elect to continue their education during the pandemic.
- b) *How much CARES aid did the CSU receive?* The CSU received \$525 million in CARES Funds from the Federal Government and used these funds to offer emergency grants to CSU students experiencing financial hardship directly due to the COVID 19 pandemic. Students apply for these funds through the [CSU CARES Program](#).
- c) *What about students who did not qualify for the CARES Aid?* [California College Student Support Fund](#) – The CSU launched a one-time \$500 hardship grant to students to address the emergency needs of the state’s low-income college students, including undocumented immigrants, foster youth, and those who are housing insecure.

**9) University of California**

- a) [Tuition Increase](#) – In March, the UC Regents confirmed they would not put forward a previously considered proposal to increase tuition for the next five years. The UC Regents decided it would be “inappropriate to move forward with this item given all the challenges the coronavirus poses to students, faculty, and staff and their families”.
- b) [Emergency Funds for Students](#) - Each UC campus established a student emergency fund dedicated to helping students which includes providing \$260 million in CARES funds to students. The student emergency fund provides direct, immediate support to students who are experiencing unforeseen difficulties. These funds can be used to help student relocate, manage food and housing expenses, or provide technology solutions for remote learning.
- c) *UC Student Loan Relief and COVID 19* – The University has \$140 million in UC-held loans which are currently being repaid. The COVID-19 pandemic may have caused former UC students to encounter economic insecurity due to disruptions in employment; therefore, the UC has enacted the following actions beginning on April 15, 2020 till September 30, 2020:
  - i) UC suspended interest accrual mirroring the federal action in the CARES Act.

- ii) UC ceased turning loans over to collection till further notice. The State Franchise Tax Board ceased tax refund garnishment on all UC loans through July 15, 2020.
- iii) UC ceases charging late fees on the same set loans in addition the UC ceased charging late fees on Health Service and Resource Association Loans.
- iv) UC will cease collection on Dream Loans, Institutional Loans, and Perkins Loans for students who request forbearance.
- v) Borrowers will be notified via email of these actions by the UC's loan servicer.

## **10) Institutions reactions to Campus Climate and Policing**

- a) UC System –President Napolitano expressed that the police department would not defund the police department on UC campuses, but the system would work to ensure that campus police officers are well-trained, using best practices in terms of de-escalation, and are managing complaints against the department in an appropriate manner.
- b) [UC Academic Senate](#) – The Academic Senate of the UC in solidarity with students has sent a letter to President Napolitano with an array of requests including the substantially defunding campus police, banning firearm use by campus police, the termination of any partnerships with non-UC law enforcement agencies, and the investment of resources into programs that provide the mental health services for Black students.
- c) [UC Student groups](#) – A letter has been circulated to student organization at the UC demanding the end to all university contracts with police on campuses, the abolishment of their departments and the redistribution of resources to provide for community members in need. The letter further demands the divestment from companies that profit from Israel's colonial occupation of Palestine and the return of Indigenous land and materials to their indigenous communities. The document is a live document with over 170 pages worth of signatures from various student groups, associations, departments and faculty. Every UC campus is represented on the letter.
- d) [UC Student Association](#) – The UC Student Association released a statement on June 2, calling for the disbarment and dismantling of the UC Police Department.

- e) [CSU Police Chiefs](#) – On June 12, 2020, Police Chiefs from all 23 campuses and issued a statement that every CSU President and Campus Police Chief have pledged to implement the recommendations of the President’s Task Force on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing. Furthermore, police on CSU campuses will no longer use carotid control hold on anyone nor will any CSU police officers receive or participate in training that teach carotid control holds.
- f) [California State University Student Association](#) - On June 1, CSSA issued a statement regarding the killing of George Floyd. In the statement there was a call to demand justice and the removal of systemic racism however, they did not explicitly express for a defunding of police on campus.
- g) [California Faculty Association](#) (CFA) - In July, the CFA issued a statement which included anti-racism and social justice demands. The statement includes demands such as: defunding and removing armed police forces from campuses, providing additional resources to Black and Africana Studies Department and Student Centers and an increase in mental health counseling teams on campus.
- h) [California Community College Leadership](#) – On June 5<sup>th</sup>, Chancellor Eloy Oakley issued a letter to the California Community College Family (students, faculty, staff, and community). In a letter the Chancellor provided a call to action that asked the system to mobilize around improving the training of police officers on campus and providing equitable and safe learning environments for all students.
- i) [Academic Senate for CCC](#) – The President of the Academic Senate issued a statement of solidarity with the Black Lives Matters movement and issued equity guidance for academic senate presidents at the campuses.
- j) [Community College League of California](#) – The Community College League along with the Chief Executive Officers of the CCC adopted a resolution on June 19, 2020 affirming their commitment to removing systemic barriers for Black and African American Students.

**11) California Wildfire Impact**

- a) [UC](#) – As of August 31, UC Santa Cruz has successfully evacuated their campus and has reported the fire remained about a mile from campus with no current damages to building on campus. While UC Davis was not directly affected, a UC Davis Field Research sight was destroyed by the fire. UC Davis has offered emergency housing to faculty, staff, and students who were affected by fires in the surrounding areas.
- b) The UC Natural Reserve System is a library of ecosystems representing most of the state’s major habitats. The NRS serves as outdoor laboratories to field scientists and classrooms without walls for students. Currently, six of the 41 reserves are on fire.
- c) CSU – As of August 31, the wildfires have not impacted any CSU campus.

**12) NCAA Official Documents**

- Main Page: <http://www.ncaa.org/sport-science-institute/covid-19-coronavirus>
- Letter to Athletes: <http://www.ncaa.org/student-athletes/open-letter-ncaa-student-athletes>
- Exercise Recs: <http://www.ncaa.org/sport-science-institute/covid-19-advisory-panel-exercise-recommendations>
- Resocialization Doc: <http://www.ncaa.org/sport-science-institute/resocialization-collegiate-sport-developing-standards-practice-and-competition>
- Resocialization FAQ: <http://www.ncaa.org/sport-science-institute/core-principles-resocialization-collegiate-sport-developing-standards-practice-and-competition>
- Return to Play: <http://www.ncaa.org/about/resources/media-center/news/board-directs-each-division-safeguard-student-athlete-well-being-scholarships-and-eligibility>

**13) Pac-12 Documents**

- Rapid Testing: [https://www.espn.com/college-sports/story/\\_/id/29804035/pac-12-partnership-allow-daily-covid-19-testing-athletes](https://www.espn.com/college-sports/story/_/id/29804035/pac-12-partnership-allow-daily-covid-19-testing-athletes)
- Postponement: <https://pac-12.com/article/2020/08/11/pac-12-conference-postpones-all-sport-competitions-through-end-calendar-year>

