

**COVID-19 Emergency Preparedness Task Force
March 12, 2020**

Updated Information for students, faculty and staff

A reminder to all employees: during our campus-wide response to the COVID-19 crisis, Misericordia University will remain open and operational.

In light of the spread of the COVID-19 virus and its contagiousness, the University has moved to an on-line format in order to provide proper social distancing that would not be possible with students in residence halls and face-to-face classrooms. We understand that this move will involve an adjustment for everyone. Faculty have the ability to address these issues through remote work. We want to be attentive to the concerns of staff as well. If there are issues regarding safe social distancing in your present work environment, please report these to a representative of the Human Resources Department.

On-Line Learning. The announcement that Misericordia University will hold courses online is to be understood as a change of format, not a closing of the school. Students are still enrolled at Misericordia University and will be expected to attend all class meeting times as directed by faculty. Students should ensure that they are available to participate in class during their normal class schedules and should not make alternative plans for those periods of time until they talk with their instructor. For example, if you normally meet for an 8:00 a.m. class, then your instructor may still require you to meet in an online environment at 8:00 a.m. *Your instructors will be communicating with you about meeting times and other course requirements in the new format.*

Off Campus Clinical Experiences.

1. All Program Chairs/Clinical Directors have made appropriate preparation plans in the case of clinical rotation and/or field placement cancelations.
2. If a Clinical Rotation or Field Placement is a requirement, it will continue at this time. If a Clinical site cancels the rotation or field placement, the student needs to notify their direct supervisor immediately for direction. At that time the supervisor will determine an individual plan for that student. Please note, this will vary per program.
3. All programs will continue to follow the guidelines of the University and their programs' individual health and/or education governing body guidelines.
4. In the interest of student safety, there will be no student direct care of known or suspected cases of COVID-19.
5. No student should be involved in situations that may be unsafe unless they have protective equipment.
6. If a student is potentially exposed to COVID-19, they need to notify their direct supervisor at both their clinical site and the University. They are to follow the protocol of their program policy handbook and clinical site. Students are also advised to Contact the Pa. State Department of Health with any questions.
7. Each state has different guidelines for quarantine rules. If a student is in a state outside of Pennsylvania, they should contact the department of health of that state.
8. All efforts will be made to support the students' ability to achieve their semester goals and requirements in a timely manner.

Athletics. Misericordia University has suspended all athletic competitions and practices from March 16 through April 13.

The Fitness Center and the Aerobics Room will be closed as of the end of the end of the day on Friday.

Fun and Fitness Programs. All programs associated with Fun and Fitness have been cancelled for the remainder of the semester.

Residence Life. Student requests to stay on campus during the period of on-line instruction (after March 15, 4:00 p.m. through April 13), are to be submitted no later than 12:00 midnight on March 12 (today) to the Dean of Students.

Student Financial Services/Financial Aid. The University is working on a process for pro-rating room and board fees for residential students. At this time, we are not able to approximate when and/or how this will occur. We await Federal and Pennsylvania Higher Education Association guidance about these matters.