Dear Colleagues,

Nearly two months into the fall semester and, despite the chaos underlying 2020, there is one constant that continues to inspire us: your commitment to educating our students and caring for one another.

Naturally, many of you are now turning your focus toward planning for spring. The WSU system is releasing its initial planning information this morning, but a reminder that, due to the nature of clinical education, our health sciences campus and its colleges remain an exception to these planning efforts. High-level information about our campus planning is provided in this email, but it will also be followed by detailed communications from colleges on how each of their schedules and plans vary.

Also, a note about the ongoing stress of COVID-19 and healthy ways to cope. Taking care of family and peers can be a stress reliever, but it should be balanced with care for yourself. During times of increased social distancing, people can still maintain social connections and care for their mental health.

For employees, a reminder that a wealth of resources are available through the Washington State Employee Assistance Program. Additionally, faculty or staff who have concerns about a WSU Health Sciences Spokane student can contact Counseling Services by phone at 509-358-7740 or in Yakima by calling 509-494-7925. They can also refer students who they are concerned about through the Student Care Network.

In terms of our guiding principles for spring 2021, as mentioned, our decision-making continues to be motivated by the unique nature of health sciences and the nuances of delivering its clinical education components. This motivation, in turn, is conditioned by our commitment to safety and the guidance of public health and medical experts. Accordingly, here are the high-level details of spring 2021 for WSU Health Sciences Spokane:

**College of Medicine**

**First- and second-year medical students** will continue to use a "learn-in-place" model, which means didactic coursework will take place virtually and students will learn from any location they prefer. In-person learning may occur during Clinical Campus Weeks, depending upon clinical capacity and safety factors. Also, the college's planning is well underway for second-year medical students and clinical skills sessions to help prepare these students for transition to Longitudinal Integrated Clerkships; more information will be available soon. Appropriate safety measures will be taken in the instance of any in-person learning experiences.

**Third- and fourth-year medical students** returned to their clinical learning environments in June and July 2020 and will continue with their clinical rotations as scheduled.
The **departments of Nutrition and Exercise Physiology and Speech and Hearing Sciences** will continue in a hybrid learning model—didactic coursework is conducted via remote delivery, and labs, practicum, clinical and experiential learning are largely conducted face-to-face.

**College of Nursing**

As was the case in the fall, classes that normally meet in classrooms or conference rooms will be delivered virtually.

**Undergraduate nursing** clinical skills development, simulation lab experiences, and clinical experiences will be held in-person utilizing appropriate safety measures. Those measures include condensed lab times, screening for admission to the labs and testing as required by clinical facilities.

**Doctor of Nursing Practice** clinicals will continue as planned, with no in-person skills development or labs.

**College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences**

Spring semester 2021 **PharmD classes** that normally meet in classrooms or conference rooms will be delivered virtually with the exception of select skills-laboratory content and assessments, which will be delivered in person with social distancing and other safety measures in place. The college will give more details on how this will be executed with specific timelines and dates for each year group following this email.

Spring semester 2020-21 **PhD classes and seminars** will stay the same as fall semester. Classes that can be safely delivered via small, in-person group settings will do so, while other larger classes will be delivered virtually. Face-to-face research orientation and training will be conducted in laboratories.

**College of Education**

As was the case this past fall, since most of the College of Education students at WSU Spokane are working in schools as either student teachers or principal interns, teaching and other learning experiences are highly dependent on decisions determined by the K-12 system with respect to face-to-face or virtual instruction. The college is monitoring the situation closely and anticipates the continued need for a variety of instructional formats. Whatever approach is required, the college will deliver high quality instruction and real-world experiences, with continued priority for the health and safety of students, staff, faculty, and community members.

For detailed information regarding our colleges' academic schedules of holidays, spring breaks, etc., please look for specific announcements from the colleges to follow. Again, clinical agreements and the needs of our respective partner agencies require varying approaches. The differences among colleges or deviation from the system in scheduling approaches is solely due to the demands of clinical education.

We’d like to conclude with a sincere thank you for everything you’ve done, and will continue to do, to care for and help our campus community.

**Daryll DeWald**  
Vice President and Chancellor  
WSU Health Sciences Spokane

**Mary Koithan**  
Dean, College of Nursing

**Mark Leid**  
Dean, College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
John Tomkowiak  
Dean, Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine

Mike Trevisan  
Dean, College of Education

WSU Health Sciences Spokane  
spokane.wsu.edu

STAY CONNECTED:

Facebook  
Twitter  
LinkedIn

WSU Health Sciences Spokane | 412 E. Spokane Falls Blvd. | Spokane | WA | 99202