

Good morning, Southwestern College students.

This has truly been an unsettling time for us. What would normally be the home stretch for the Spring semester has become a time of uncertainty and lots of questions, especially for students. We know that the events of the last few weeks have created anxiety and stress for many of you, especially those transferring to your next college or university. We understand that the COVID-19 public health crisis has upended many of your plans, including your education. Our Southwestern College professionals have been spending endless hours planning and finding ways to help you complete this semester with your educational goals intact. We're working through many unique and new requests and appreciate the patience as we continue to serve you, our students, as best we can. Here are a few of the top concerns we're still seeing from students.

Can I still withdraw from my class(es) and what will be the impact?

If you choose to withdraw from a class, you may withdraw by the end of the Spring semester and be eligible for a refund, however after April 24, you will need to contact admissions to drop (admissions@swccd.edu). You will be given an Excused Withdrawal – (EW) —as Southwestern College is incorporating the State Chancellor's Office recommendation.

If you took classes in the Spring 2020 semester, you could petition at **any time** after the term ends to receive an EW for any punitive grades you may have received. In that case, however, you will not be eligible for a refund. Students who receive a grade of D or F (during Spring '20 semester) will be allowed to go through the petition process to receive an EW without refund option, **regardless of the time period.**

While we continue to stand ready with support and resources to help you complete the semester successfully, there can be advantages for receiving an EW.

1. You can drop courses using WebAdvisor and receive an EW grade – choose the reason code COVID19 through April 24th
2. No "petitions" or petition committees needed
3. The class record remains in system of record for federal financial aid requirements
4. EW grades are not punitive grades for Title 5 purposes

Another option is the Pass/No Pass (P/NP) grade option. The Southwestern College Academic Senate and state Chancellor's Office has suspended the February 21st deadline to elect a P/NP grade through May 1, 2020. Students will be able to elect a P/NP for classes that offer that grading option, but there may be negative effects on transferability.

I have been unable to continue with my classes because I don't have access to technology

In usual Southwestern College fashion, our colleagues' creativity is allowing us to pool resources from a variety of areas to provide 600 computers so students can complete their semester online. These computers will be a mix of laptops and desktops.

We are also working with our vendors and the Southwestern College Foundation to fund Wi-Fi access to support those who do not have internet access at home or have access to free public hotspots. Please continue to monitor your student email on information to apply for one of the computers. Unfortunately, not all requests will be granted. Spring 2020 Southwestern College students can complete an online form to request a computer from Southwestern College. Computers are available on a first-come, first-served basis and not all requests will be able to be fulfilled.

More information can be found on the [Student Computer Request Form](#). You **must** be logged into your MySWC google account to access the form.

Will I get a refund on my student fees (activities, health, parking) for the semester?

Before we left the campus, your Associated Student Organization (ASO) had been busy working on allocating budgets and distributing funds to clubs. Your funds have already been allocated to such activities as the SWC Cares Emergency grants and other club events. Your ASO leaders will be working on creating programming that can support students to remain engaged and connected. Club Advisors will be encouraged to meet virtually with their club members and to think about online/virtual events they may be able to host as clubs.

Your ASO is still planning to work remotely. The ASO President's meeting and Senate meetings will be conducted virtually adhering to the Brown Act. The ASO President's meeting and Senate meetings will be conducted virtually adhering to the Brown Act. Meeting agendas and documents will be made available on the [ASO Google Drive](#).

Health Services Fees

Students can continue accessing Health Services via online nursing and Personal Wellness services online and telephonically at enurse@swccd.edu and (619) 482-6354. Therefore, those fees will not be refunded.

Parking Permits

Refunds for parking permits for Spring 2020 will not be available. However, if you purchased a parking permit for the Spring semester and will be returning in the Summer or Fall 2020 semesters, Spring 2020 permits will continue to be valid through the fall.

Student Virtual Town Hall

While these have been the most common questions we have received, we know you may still have more questions. We encourage you to join your ASO's [Student Virtual Town Hall](#) on Wed. April 1 from 10 – 11:30 a.m. The link to access the Student Townhall via Zoom is <https://cccconfer.zoom.us/j/632596504>

We continue navigating this uncharted territory together. Please know that we are here to help you in any way possible. We will continue providing updates on the www.swccd.edu/healthupdates page.

Please continue to stay safe and healthy.

Kindred Murillo, Ed.D.
Superintendent/President