

From: SWC ADMISSIONS CENTER
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2020 8:26 PM
Subject: International Student Update

Dear Southwestern College International Students:

As you have read in the various emails from the college and messages from Chancellor's office, Southwestern Community College has suspended face-to-face classes until further notice due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation.

There are a few points the International Student Admissions Office would like to clarify for international students:

1. International students have restrictions for online classes, the Distance Learning/Online classes will continue as usual per your course outline and syllabus. If you are enrolled in online classes please continue to participate, submit assignments and maintain contact with your instructors. In order to maintain valid F1 visa status at this time, you must remain in the U.S. while continuing to take/complete your courses online, through Southwestern College for the spring 2020 semester.
2. Face-to-face (in-person) classes were moved to a technology enhanced format starting March 16th and will not negatively affect your F-1 visa status. Neither Southwestern College nor DHS (immigration) will penalize you for not attending face-to-face classes. However, please check emails and ask instructors how they will require you to submit class work -- via email, Canvas, etc. It will be your responsibility to keep up with the work your instructor(s) assign(s). SEVP is encouraging students who are in approved OPT (Optional Practical Training Status) and who's employment has been affected, to consult with their employer to seek alternative ways to maintain employment (such as teleworking or other arrangements) in order to maintain status.
3. The International Student Admissions Office will have limited in-person services until we are given approval to return to normal business operations. The staff will work remotely and will respond to questions as they come via email.
4. The Primary Designated School Official (PDSO) at Southwestern College has been in contact with SEVP (immigration) offices and they are aware that Southwestern College will be shifting to alternate teaching methods based on the State of California Chancellor's Office, the Superintendent/President and the Board of Trustees directives.

We highly recommend that you do not travel during this time and you follow all other health advice as previously sent by the Chancellor's Office and Student Health Center. Please continue to check your email and social media. We will keep you updated as soon as we have more information about our services and hours for the remainder of the semester.

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns via email at: amora@swccd.edu or nmontez@swccd.edu.

Best regards,
Southwestern College Office of International Student Admissions