

Clinicals, Labs, Student Teaching and Performing Arts - Spring 2021

Clinical and Nursing Instruction

University educational settings for nursing students (classrooms and simulation labs) have been modified to enforce social distancing, according to square footage in the room. All Messiah Nursing students who are in clinical courses have been taught handwashing and all have had opportunities to practice with both soap & water and hand sanitizer, which are available in campus instructional settings (both wall-mounted sanitizer and sinks with running water and soap).

Students are trained in the appropriate use (donning and doffing) of PPE in the first clinical course. The NURS 412 Community Health course includes content about the epidemiology, transmission, transmission prevention, and population instruction for COVID-19. All faculty and students will wear cloth masks and gloves when in the simulation labs and will have their temperature checked before participating. Gloves will be provided upon arrival to the lab (after hand hygiene has been completed). If students will be in a group simulation where social distancing is not feasible, all students participating in the simulation will wear a mask, face shield and gloves.

Clinical placements for Spring 2021 are planned for undergraduate Nursing students at WellSpan, Hershey Medical Center, and UPMC Pinnacle, with contingency plans in place for additional simulation hours if the university is unable to send students into specialty clinical settings. (As of January 2021, there is a hold on the placements at WellSpan and Hershey due to a COVID surge in both hospitals. We anticipate that by February clinical sites will open up. Courses impacted by these restrictions are NURS 312 (found an alternate site at UPMC) and NURS 313). UPMC is placing restrictions on clinical group size and number of hours per day. All clinical partners are continuing their ban on students caring for COVID-19 positive patients and from observations in high-risk vulnerable areas such as Neonatal Intensive Care. Observations in the operating rooms have opened back up to students.

Newly formed clinical partnerships with a rehab hospital have been formed for NURS 211 to replace the clinical hours lost in long term care facilities which are still not open to students. Messiah Nursing faculty will inform students of the risks of contact with infectious disease. Students will sign an institutional waiver that informs them of the potential disease risk along with their responsibility to inform their clinical instructor if they are exposed. The clinical sites are providing PPE for students. Students will need to wear their own mask when on hospital parking shuttles and when entering buildings.

Each hospital where clinicals are held has prescribed a mandatory educational module on COVID-19 specific practices that students must view before starting the clinical experience. On campus, faculty will also review COVID-19 specific practices with their students. Students will be screened, and social distancing will be practiced in simulation labs on campus. Specific strategies to reduce possible transmission of disease beyond what is mentioned above will be included as part of clinical orientation provided by clinical faculty.

Lab Classes

University laboratory educational settings have been modified to enforce social distancing, according to square footage in the room. All students in laboratory courses are trained at the beginning of the course in health and safety procedures, and this instruction will include instruction in COVID-19 transmission prevention and completing lab work while social distancing and wearing a mask. For learning activities that require modified (closer) distancing in labs to fulfill learning objectives, school deans will approve proposals from departments that outline the parameters and precautions, such as additional PPE, for these learning experiences.

Social Work Placements

Social work will continue to follow accreditation guidelines related to field placements.

We will follow the modified hour plan for our seniors that we put in place for our seniors in 2020, for our seniors who will be in placement in spring 2021.

While we anticipate that students will go to in-person placements, we have retained all of the guidelines and approved activities in place, in case placements would need to be virtual in spring 2021.

For placements prior to the senior year (SOWK251, SOWK361, SOWK476, SOWK372) and volunteer placements in SOWK120 and SOWK221), faculty will devise activities that still meet accreditation guidelines (simulations, trainings, virtual experiences, group activities) but the actual field placements will be modified

Performing Arts

The School of the Arts will offer a full season of student concerts, recitals, plays, dance performances and exhibitions within the recommended safety parameters and guidelines. Specifically:

- Audiences will be limited to the campus community (students, faculty, and staff), and to the seating limits possible with distancing, or if smaller the maximum size of groups as defined by the state of Pennsylvania.
- Performances will not have receptions or food as part of the event.
- Senior performances and exhibitions will be open to the family of the student, with pre-screening and following the guidelines accessed on arts.messiah.edu.
- Performers will wear masks when possible
- Events will be live-streamed for off-campus audiences.
- Exhibitions openings will not have receptions, and artist's talks will be virtual.
- We will have small audiences in Miller and Poorman as possible for select performances given the capacity of the room, drawn from the campus community. We will also live stream play and dance performances.
- Dance faculty will choreograph with distancing as a creative discipline.
- Equipment, including keyboard instruments in practice rooms, keyboards and computers in the music technology lab and the recording studio, and instruments used in music education instrument classes will be cleaned regularly.
- All large ensemble rehearsals (orchestra, wind ensemble, symphonic winds, concert choir, women's ensemble, and the jazz bands) will take place in Parmer because of the size and ventilation in the room.
- All large ensemble directors are planning to rotate smaller groups within the larger group, so they can maintain more distancing when rehearsing and performing.
- When possible, Concert Choir will rehearse outdoors. Concert Choir may perform in small groups outdoors.
- All concerts and recitals will be live-streamed from Parmer Hall and High Foundation Recital Hall.
- Applied music lessons will continue with distancing, and masks when possible.

Teacher Education Program (TEP)

The Messiah University Teacher Education Program will follow the guidance of the Pennsylvania Department of Education to provide appropriate experiences for TEP students who are registered for a field experience for spring 2021. This guidance has not yet been issued.

While face-to-face field experiences and supervision are our preferred option to provide maximum experience in PK-12 classrooms, circumstances related to COVID-19 may require flexibility in completing and evaluating field experience requirements. Depending on a number of factors including the level of the field experience, the plans of individual school districts, and the needs of students and college supervisors, field experience requirements might be completed through a combination of in-school placements

(including face-to-face, blended, and/or distance learning), teaching simulations, observations of teaching videos, peer teaching, or other PDE approved means of meeting the required competencies for that level field experience.

Modalities for supervision (e.g., face-to-face, video, Zoom) of 300 and 400 level field experiences may vary for students based on allowances of individual school districts and the needs of individual supervisors. The modalities for supervision may also change during the semester to accommodate changing needs. Students in field experiences will be evaluated using our state-approved evaluation instruments to assess levels of achievement of state-mandated competencies with field experience activities being structured, to the extent possible, to allow students to develop and demonstrate mastery of the competencies.

We will provide students with access to professional development to support their understanding of best practices for online teaching. Students will sign a waiver prior to beginning their field experience.