

# Clinicals, Labs, Student Teaching & Performing Arts

## 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 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 & 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 Fall 2020 are in place for undergraduate Nursing students at WellSpan, Hershey Medical Center, and UPMC Pinnacle. All clinical partners have banned students from caring for COVID-19 positive patients and from observations in high-risk vulnerable areas such as Neonatal Intensive Care, infant delivery, and operating rooms. 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. 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 & 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.

## 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 fall 2020. 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 have scheduled our face-to-face field experiences to conclude prior to Thanksgiving to allow students to return home. Additional assignments will be completed after Thanksgiving as part of final exams. 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.

## Performing Arts

- We plan to offer a full season of student concerts, recitals, plays, dance performances and exhibitions within the recommended safety parameters and guidelines.
- 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. Senior performances will be open to the family of the student.
- 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 given the capacity of the room, drawn from the campus community. We will also live stream performances. Fall plays have been selected such that both are public domain (and can therefore be streamed).
- The fall season of plays will include one Greek tragedy and one Greek comedy. Ancient Greek theatre used masks and can be staged in a more statuesque way allowing distancing on stage.
- 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 on the tennis court. We are also exploring the possibility of an outdoor canopy for rainy days. Concert Choir may perform in small groups outdoors.
- 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.