



Notice to Authorized Postsecondary Institutions

March 18, 2020 - The Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education is in communication with national and state higher education leadership regarding the COVID-19 "coronavirus" and its effects on students and schools. We understand that state postsecondary educational institutions are implementing changes from face-to-face to distance delivery alternatives to protect the health of students, staff and faculty.

Accredited Institutions: If your postsecondary institution is accredited and authorized by the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education, and the scope of your accreditation includes any provision of distance delivery, this document provides temporary immediate approval for blanket distance education methods to be implemented, until the state's public health disaster emergency declaration expires.

If your institution is not accredited and has been authorized by the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education for any provision of distance learning, you may temporarily extend offerings to students who are currently enrolled in face-to-face classes, until the state's public health disaster emergency declaration expires.

The purpose is to allow current students to continue to receive the education for which they have enrolled.

Other Institutions: If your postsecondary institution does not have the ability to offer distance-learning options to students and deems it necessary to temporarily adjust curriculum or postpone scheduled classes, you must notify the Commission staff at Patricia.nickell-zimmerman@alaska.gov immediately. The notification should include, at a minimum: the written notice provided to students, number of students affected, procedures to ensure timely contract completion, timeline to reconvene regular schedule, and any other pertinent information.

Other Considerations: Postsecondary schools that require approval by other agencies in addition to ACPE must ensure that they remain in compliance with the standards, regulations or rules of those approving agencies:

- National, Regional and Special Accreditors
- Licensing Boards and Commissions - Postsecondary schools offering programs leading to licensure must ensure that the proposed method of distance education meets the standards of the licensing board
- US Department of Education Title IV school funding - [Coronavirus Announcement](#)
- Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) - Postsecondary schools enrolling international students must ensure that moving these students to distance education meets SEVP requirements.

We appreciate your work as you move forward to protect students and continue to provide them with a quality education during this extraordinary time. If you would like to discuss further or have any questions about Alaska authorization requirements, please feel free to call.