

## WSU Tri-Cities mostly virtual for fall 2020

### Instruction

#### **Instruction to be completed through Zoom and Blackboard**

Your courses will be delivered through Zoom, Blackboard, and several other virtual platforms for laboratory courses. We will use the remaining weeks of summer to offer a series of trainings for faculty to get them up to speed on best practice teaching strategies for the virtual environment, how best to engage students in an online environment and more. We will also offer trainings to students who have had difficulties or no experience using the virtual platforms. We will send more information to you about that via your WSU email.

#### **Synchronous and asynchronous learning**

Most courses will have both synchronous (live at your regular class time) and asynchronous (recorded and watched at a later time) options for most courses. We encourage students to select their course schedule based on times they will be available to attend class live, but for maximum flexibility, all lectures will be recorded and made available on Blackboard. The instructor of your course will communicate how the course will operate through Blackboard.

Students should also communicate directly with their instructor if they have issues attending a class live.

#### **Mode of learning to be noted on your course schedule**

The WSU Tri-Cities registrar's office will add notes to the course schedule, indicating that classes will be delivered virtually. Class times will not be adjusted. For the limited selection of courses that will be offered in-person for labs and studios, there will also be a note on those courses. However, if students enrolled are not able to attend in-person, accommodations will be made to attend virtually. All classrooms at WSU Tri-Cities will be Zoom capable.

All updates to the schedule will be completed by early next week and we will announce updates via your WSU email.

#### **Semester calendar**

The semester schedule will remain the same length. It will start on Aug. 24 and the last day of finals will take place on Friday, December 18. All in-person learning will end the Friday before Thanksgiving break and the rest of the semester will take place virtually, including final exams/project presentations.

#### **Exams**

Your professor will communicate their plans for exams or other learning assessments. Each faculty member will work with our instructional design teams to ensure the highest quality learning and assessment techniques based on the subject matter and learning goals of the course. For a limited number of classes, proctoring software may be considered with approval from the Office of Academic Affairs.

#### **Will pass/fail and late withdrawal options be offered to students?**

The University will be able to offer a more seamless learning environment throughout the fall 2020 semester. With clear expectations and course requirements in place, the [normal campus policies concerning grade and withdrawal dates](#) will apply.

## Campus services will continue

### Campus services to continue to be offered virtually

Academic and student services, such as advising, tutoring, financial aid, access, mental health counseling, Veteran Center services, etc., will be done remotely. We will continue to use our WSU Tri-Cities Virtual Help Desks, which are available at [tricity.wsu.edu/televisit](http://tricity.wsu.edu/televisit). The Virtual Help Desks are available for the following services: IT, student union, advising, writing center, TRIO Student Support Services and the Veteran Center.

### Some in-person campus services to continue to be offered

Both the cashier's office and The Bookie will remain open this fall, though hours open and purchases and payments might look a bit different. More information will be shared, soon. We know many of you still need to purchase your books for fall, and know that we are working swiftly on a plan with The Bookie.

The Cougar Cupboard - the WSU Tri-Cities food pantry, will also remain open to provide students and their families with access to fresh and non-perishable food. We will keep open both our campus location, as well as the location offered in Pasco at the WSU Franklin County Extension office. It is currently operating on summer hours and those will be adjusted for the fall semester as we get closer. For hours, more information and to arrange a food pick-up, visit [tricity.wsu.edu/finaid/foodbank](http://tricity.wsu.edu/finaid/foodbank).

## Off-campus services

### Alternate WSU Tri-Cities study/work locations being explored as option for fall 2020

WSU Tri-Cities administration is in talks with the city of Kennewick, city of Pasco, the WSU Prosser Extension, as well as other WSU Extension offices to see if study/work stations can be set up for WSU Tri-Cities student use. These locations would feature reliable Wi-Fi and a quiet location for students to utilize for their school work. If solidified, more information will be shared with students about that, soon, as opening these locations are subject to approval by the local health department and would require health and safety restrictions.

### Brelsford Vineyard apartments

The Brelsford Vineyard Apartments, which are based on the WSU Tri-Cities campus and are operated by an external agency separate from WSU, will continue to rent to students. They have their own safety plan in place and students should abide by the safety parameters they set. For more information on renting with the Brelsford Vineyard Apartments, visit [www.thebrelsfordvineyards.com](http://www.thebrelsfordvineyards.com).

## Financial aid

Online course delivery is approved by the Department of Education through Dec. 2020. If you are receiving federal student loans and Pell grants, you will retain eligibility.

Scholarship and tuition waiver awards will be managed on a student-by-student basis depending on the award. If you are receiving private scholarships, or scholarships awarded outside of WSU, you should

contact the funder(s) to ensure your continued eligibility.

If you chose to defer enrollment and will return to WSU Tri-Cities within one year, your recruitment awards will be reinstated (UAA, DUAA, Cougar Award, WUE, Regent Scholarship).

If you are concerned about financial aid and have questions, please email [tricitities.financialaid@wsu.edu](mailto:tricitities.financialaid@wsu.edu) or call 509-372-7228.

## **Hardship funding**

Both WSU Tri-Cities and the WSU system have hardship funds established meant for supporting students who are experiencing hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic. If you are you or if you know of a student that is struggling or experiencing a hardship, we encourage you to fill out the Cougar Cares fund at [tricitities.wsu.edu/current-students/cougarcares](http://tricitities.wsu.edu/current-students/cougarcares). Someone will follow-up to see how we can help.

## **CARES Act funding**

We have received several questions from students about whether additional CARES Act funding will be distributed to individuals through WSU. A CARES Act package is being considered by the federal government, but what will be distributed at this point still needs to be solidified. If an additional round of funding is going to be sent to students, we will send a message to all students in advance of that occurring.

## **Student employment**

Many WSU Tri-Cities student jobs and internships will be available, though most will require virtual work. Just like during a typical year, positions both at WSU and outside of WSU will be posted on [Handshake](http://Handshake). Help is also offered through Career Services. More info: [tricitities.wsu.edu/careerdev](http://tricitities.wsu.edu/careerdev).

## **Resources available for faculty**

### **Opportunities to teach from the classroom to be considered**

We will consider requests from faculty to teach in a classroom with no students present where the lecture will be recorded for students to view from home. Both this mode of course delivery and teaching via Zoom from your home will require flexibility for students who cannot attend a “live” lecture.

### **Faculty trainings over the summer**

We are offering a series of training opportunities for faculty throughout the summer, ranging from best practices for teaching over Zoom, to how to use the technology most effectively, to how to foster a welcoming and engaging environment virtually and more. Those will be announced to faculty as they are identified and scheduled.

Additionally, several faculty have undergone training to use a new technology called “Learning Glass” to enhance lectures. It allows faculty to draw on a black-lit glass surface, which is recorded via video and allows the faculty member to address the camera directly while they write/draw their lecture material. More faculty are also welcome to use the platform for their courses for fall. Faculty should contact [Anna](#)

[Plemons](#) or [Janet Peters](#), if interested.

## Research

At this time, we expect research operations to continue in the limited capacity under which they now operate.

## More information

### Website with more details

WSU Tri-Cities is preparing a Frequently Asked Questions webpage as it pertains to plans for fall, which features greater detail on plans for fall and will continue to be updated throughout the summer. This will launch and will be communicated to campus members next week.

### Town Hall on Fall Plans set for Tuesday, July 28

I encourage you all to attend the **WSU Tri-Cities Town Hall on Plans for Fall at 4 p.m. this Tuesday, July 28**. The event will be hosted on the WSU Tri-Cities YouTube channel: [youtube.com/wsutricities](https://www.youtube.com/wsutricities). We will share information in much greater detail and answer most of your questions. [Submit a question for the town hall](#).

### Contact academic advisor, Office of Student Affairs for support

For our students, if your course schedule poses any issues, I encourage you to contact your academic advisor. If you are a struggling in any way, I encourage you to reach out to our Student Affairs office at [tricitiestudentaffairs@wsu.edu](mailto:tricitiestudentaffairs@wsu.edu). We know this is an incredibly difficult time, but we want to see your success. We are here to help.