

2021 WSU Tri-Cities State of the Campus Q&A

Answers to questions not answered during Chancellor Sandra Haynes' address

Return to work and course plans

Beginning today, April 19, capacity is being expanded for working on campus with priority being given to services that are student-facing. Not all individuals are asked to return to work at this time. It is now possible for some individuals to return, depending on their role and what has been established by their supervisor. For questions regarding your department, please contact your supervisor.

Individuals no longer need to submit a campus access request form to access facilities on campus, however, all individuals must complete their WSU Attestation, as well as check-in at either the CIC or Floyd kiosks every time they come to campus. More information will also be continued to be shared with campus members this spring and throughout the summer as restrictions change due to fluctuations in the COVID-19 rate of infection.

HRS holds return to work sessions online that will be held regularly throughout the next several months as different departments gradually return to in-person work on campus. To access those trainings, visit hrs.wsu.edu/training under "COVID-19 related – WSU Online and Custom Courses." The trainings require that individuals enter their WSU log-in credentials.

All summer courses remain virtual this summer. This fall, however, with safety being of utmost importance, [WSU Tri-Cities plans to offer many more in-person courses](#). All in-person classes, activities and support services will adhere to health department guidelines for wearing masks, social distancing and sanitizing protocols. For students who are unable to attend in-person due to health concerns, virtual learning will remain an option for all courses.

At what percentage will campus functions, like student jobs, be available in fall 2021?

Like our student services, we hope to offer as many student jobs this summer and fall as we can. We expect there may be some shifting of areas where jobs are available. A variety of student jobs were recently posted on Handshake. For more information and to apply, visit wsu.joinhandshake.com/login.

Will childcare be available on campus in the fall?

Childcare will not be available on campus this fall. We continue to explore options for future childcare resources that are cost-effective and could be an option for our faculty, staff and students on-campus. We recognize that this is a highly requested resource by many campus

members, and especially, as we return to semi-normal operations amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Finding an ideal option for our campus for childcare has proven challenging, but we continue to look for options.

How are administrative (non-faculty) costs being restrained this fiscal year and years in the future?

We strategically combined Student Affairs and Academic Affairs, which will help to streamline processes and to minimize costs, as well as leaving vacant many positions that were naturally vacated over the past two years. With the implementation of WorkDay and turnover in the business services office, restructuring for more efficient services will occur in the near future. There are service positions that must be replaced, however, to ensure effective student services for recruitment and retention and to keep our campus functioning.

If your goal is more student enrollment, what is your plan to hire more resident science faculty?

Academic Affairs is working on creating a faculty hiring plan as part of the development of an academic master plan. The plan will be designed to strategically hire faculty in critical areas to maximize opportunities in departments that are vital in growing enrollment. With our campus' strong focus in STEM, science, engineering and related fields are critical to enrollment growth and growing our research strengths.

What are the biggest challenges you see in re-establishing a sense of campus community when we return to face to face?

The COVID-19 pandemic has understandably created some anxiety with return to work. The phased return to work plan should help everyone gradually become more comfortable with working on campus again. Best practice safety measures should help with this transition. We will also work to help individuals feel welcome back on campus and allow for work social interactions, as appropriate.

Will the WSU Tri-Cities campus be receiving any COVID-19 relief funds to make up for lost revenue due to the pandemic?

The WSU system received relief funds and plans for distribution are being made centrally.

What options will faculty have for holding classes via Zoom in the fall?

If you have a medical condition that impacts your ability to work on campus, contact Disability Services to initiate the reasonable accommodation process at HRS.disabilityservices@wsu.edu or 509-335-4521. You may also care to refer to:

- [High Risk Employee – Workers Rights – Accommodations](#)

- [Reasonable Accommodation](#)

General university classrooms have had technology added to enable lectures to be taught to students via Zoom. Trainings will be available the week before fall classes start.

What is the College of Education's position on social emotional learning instruction during teacher prep for students and principal candidates?

The College of Education implements social emotional learning into all classes and prepares all students to undertake implementing it in their future classrooms.

What does the realm of student life/recreation/intramurals look like moving forward?

We are hoping to have more in-person activities for students in the fall, however, these programs are dependent on state and health department guidelines.

Will WSU Tri-Cities continue to record lectures in math/science, even after we return to in-person instruction?

This will be an instructor decision. However, for students who are unable to return to in-person learning due to health reasons, virtual options will remain available.

What opportunities for growth do you see in the near future?

There are many opportunities for growth. In academics and research, focusing on the development of a new institute for energy and the environment and focusing on the development of new degrees identified by the strategic plan environmental scan are particular areas of focus. The latter includes the potential for the following academic programs at WSU Tri-Cities: fruit and vegetable management, social work, agriculture technology, and communication with an emphasis on science and technical writing and communication. Any steps to add any of these programs will be discussed and vetted.

We are working to expand professional and continuing education trainings and credentials. Stay tuned for announcements about some recent developments on that very soon.

Student support is an area that is on the cusp of growth, with the new student learning commons, as well as student life activities (especially those with a focus on wellness and belonging), remaining important.

WSU Tri-Cities is also pursuing a seal in Excelencia in Education. Excelencia in Education accelerates Latino student success in higher education by providing data-driven analysis of the educational status of Latinx students; promoting education policies and institutional practices that support their academic achievement; and organizing a network of

professionals with common cause for Latino student success. The Seal of Excelencia is a national certification for institutes that strive to go beyond enrollment to intentionally serve Latino students.

Some employees find that working from home has been a positive and efficient experience. How can we keep some of those work-from-home components integrated into the “new normal” when we are able to get back on campus?

Vice chancellors and managers should evaluate needs in their specific area to determine if it is appropriate to integrate some work-from-home elements without impacting students, other employees, or campus services. Flexible scheduling will remain an option for managers and supervisors to consider, depending on the operational needs of the department. Human Resource Services is currently working on a revised telework agreement that is less cumbersome.