Weekly News Digest: Penn State and the COVID-19 Crisis

This email summarizes updates involving Penn State and the COVID-19 pandemic. Please review each weekly news digest on receipt and forward it to colleagues to keep them informed of recent developments.

- **STEM faculty now can borrow tech tools such as iPads and Apple Pencils** to enhance remote delivery of their course content.

- New information explains how alternative grading will affect entrance to major (ETM) requirements in administratively controlled majors at University Park.

- The Schreyer Institute for Teaching Excellence (SITE) has new webpages for faculty focused on strategies for remote instruction and learning assessment. SITE also is collaborating with Teaching and Learning with Technology (TLT) to offer virtual office hours to support faculty, and TLT is providing access to a database of peer-reviewed questions developed for large, entry-level courses.

- For all faculty in their pre-tenure probationary period (as defined in University policy AC23), updated University guidance and FAQs are available regarding the extension of the probationary period due to COVID-19, starting with the 2020-2021 academic year.

- Remote access to Penn State lab computers is now available to students and faculty at most campuses through the new Penn State WebLabs website.

- The Graduate School launched a COVID-19 webpage with information specifically for Penn State graduate students.

- Students can connect with organizations virtually on Tuesday, April 14, during the Hire Big10+ Virtual Career Fair.

- An email to Penn State seniors Wednesday, April 8, provided details about the Spring 2020 virtual commencement ceremony to be held Saturday, May 9. Students who want to participate were instructed to provide phonetic spellings and pronunciations of their names by noon Tuesday, April 14. More commencement-related information is available in updated FAQs online.

- The Schreyer Honors College will hold a virtual, pre-recorded medals ceremony for its Spring 2020 graduates from 4:30-6 p.m. Friday, May 8.

- In partnership with the Schreyer Honors College, the University Libraries is moving forward with the annual Outstanding Undergraduate Thesis Award competition, which will be held virtually. The submission deadline was extended to Tuesday, April 21.
• Prospective **undergraduate** students can apply to the University Park campus through Monday, May 1, and to Commonwealth Campuses through Friday, July 31. Applications are being processed on a rolling basis as usual. [Penn State World Campus](https://www.psu.edu) applicants have different deadlines.

• New **undergraduate** students are being encouraged to accept their admission offers by Monday, May 1, and to begin their transition activities. However, students needing additional time can go to their MyPennState portals by May 1 to request an extension to Monday, June 1.

• In coordination with University Health Services and Human Resources, Penn State Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) has developed new protocols to help protect the health of employees who are performing mission-critical functions on campus. Among them are employee guidance for working on campus and instructions for supervisors responding to reported COVID-19 cases in their work units.

• Penn State University Press is partnering with EBSCO Information Services to provide unlimited access to Press e-books for library clients through June 30.

• The [Penn State Alumni Trustee Election](https://www.psu.edu/alumni/trustee-election) began today and concludes Thursday, May 7.

**To obtain comprehensive, updated information at any time, visit:**

• The University’s official [COVID-19 information site](https://www.pennstate.edu/coronavirus) and FAQ page (Note: The most recent FAQ updates are provided [here](https://www.pennstate.edu/coronavirus/faq))
• The [Office of Human Resources COVID-19 information site](https://www.pennstate.edu/hr/coronavirus)
• A robust [list of contacts and resources](https://www.pennstate.edu/hr/coronavirus) for the University community
• The University websites dedicated to remote [teaching](https://www.pennstate.edu/coronavirus/teaching) and [learning](https://www.pennstate.edu/coronavirus/learning)