

Friday, May 1, 2020

News Digest: Penn State and the COVID-19 Crisis

This email provides a high-level overview of University news and updates during the past week. Please review and forward this weekly news digest to colleagues to keep them informed of recent developments.

- Three new task groups are working to establish the necessary infrastructure and processes to uphold health and inform [a plan for Penn State students, faculty, and staff to return to campus](#). In line with the latest directives and guidelines from government and public health authorities, the University remains optimistic for a Fall 2020 return to on-campus learning, **Penn State will keep people informed and provide updates and additional information by June 15, if not sooner.**
- Penn State released instructions on [how to use the GPA calculator tool in LionPATH](#) to help undergraduates estimate how alternative grades will impact their GPAs.
- The Office for Summer Session published [FAQs for students taking online courses this summer](#).
- By May 12, all Penn State [students must enroll in and use two-factor authentication](#) (2FA) to access more than 2,300 sites and services protected by WebAccess.
- [Updated sabbatical leave FAQs](#) were provided on the Faculty Affairs website.
- Reports released by Moody's Investors Services and S&P Global Ratings [gave Penn State's credit rating a stable outlook](#).
- The Office of Global Programs provided [clarifications about immigration policy](#) for the University's international population.
- The [2020 Symposium for Teaching and Learning with Technology](#) (TLT) and Canvas Day will be held virtually, and the [TLT Summer Series](#) will have its first session on May 13. Ten additional sessions will be held on Wednesdays throughout the summer.
- Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) will continue to [offer vital student services during the summer](#), including same-day phone support, individual counseling, and daily virtual Life Hacks sessions.

- Beginning May 4, University Police and Public Safety [will host four weekly Zoom sessions](#) (registration required) for the Penn State community. Two sessions each week will cover the University's Active Attacker Response Program; the other two will be open Q&A sessions.
- Penn State faculty now have [access to Microsoft MyAnalytics](#), an Office 365 program that provides tools for personal productivity.

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

- The University's official [COVID-19 information site](#) and [FAQ page](#) (Note: The most recent FAQ updates are provided [here](#))
- The ["University Measures" webpage](#), which summarizes steps Penn State is taking in response to COVID-19.
- The [Office of Human Resources COVID-19 information site](#)
- A robust [list of contacts and resources](#) for the University community
- The University websites dedicated to remote [teaching](#) and [learning](#)