



## **CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, DOMINGUEZ HILLS (CSUDH): PLANNING FOR FALL 2020 AND BEYOND**

Planning for Fall 2020 has been and continues to be a topic of conversation and intentional, methodical proceedings. During the past two months or more, the CSUDH Executive Policy Group (EPG) has sought the opinions and perspectives of the Chancellor's Office, public health and medical officials, local and state government agencies, Academic Affairs Council, Academic Senate, Department Chairs, union representatives, Student Affairs Leadership Team, ASI Leadership, current and incoming students, staff, and our Fall 2020 Recovery Planning Committee.

Based on that broad consultation, we are moving forward with our planning, while simultaneously aligning our final decisions with the CSU system, and the latest information the Chancellor revealed indicating that the fall semester 2020 will be conducted virtually. These same stakeholders listed above will inform our coordinated efforts to launch CSUDH's plans for this coming fall semester 2020 and beyond. This document represents the best of our thinking as of mid-May 2020. As we move forward, please know that we maintain our unwavering commitment to student success and academic excellence.

### **ASSUMPTIONS**

The plans for Fall 2020 at CSUDH will proceed with several thoughts and assumptions in mind. These include:

1. The need to protect the health and safety of our campus community, as best we can, will remain paramount in our approaches. Incidence and prevalence data of COVID-19 cases, the mortality rates that disproportionately impact Black and Brown people, as well as aged communities, the availability of testing and tracing equipment and personnel, the ability to acquire sufficient PPE equipment, our capacity to maintain a clean, sanitized, and disinfected environment on campus, and other factors will help inform our thinking and final decisions.
2. Government entities and public health advisories have produced guidelines that will be employed in relaxing and eventually removing restrictions to engage in more face-to-face instruction, co-curricular learning, and service delivery. We will reference [California's Roadmap to Modify the Stay-at-Home Order](#), and the [Chancellor's Office Guidance](#) on May 12, 2020, as the primary frameworks to navigate the eventual re-population of campus activities, to restore the ability of this institution of higher education to engage in limited face-to-face instruction. It is our belief and commitment

that the following *California's 6 Indicators for Modifying the Stay-at-Home Order* will be applied to that end:

1. The ability to monitor and protect our communities through testing, contact tracing, isolating, and supporting those who are positive or exposed.
  2. The ability to prevent infection in people who are at risk for more severe COVID-19.
  3. The ability of the hospital and health systems to handle surges.
  4. The ability to develop therapeutics to meet the demand.
  5. The ability for businesses, schools, and childcare facilities to support physical distancing.
  6. The ability to determine when to reinstitute certain measures, such as the stay-at-home orders, if necessary.
3. The capacity for the campus to move fully online is challenging at best, given the financial and human resource constraints we operate under on the Dominguez Hills campus. It is currently not feasible to expect that all instruction at CSUDH can be delivered using an online instructional delivery system; instead, we will continue to provide alternative instruction (involving a continuum of online, virtual, synchronous, and asynchronous educational approaches) until restrictions are relaxed or ultimately removed. This observation, however, is coupled with the recognition that implementation of any element of face-to-face engagement on campus--be they labs, simulators, research, studio arts, or musical performance--will be guided by the following criteria:
- a. There will be very limited exceptions granted for face-to-face engagement.
  - b. There must be a compelling academic reason for doing so, demonstrating that there is no alternative option to achieve the learning outcomes or degree requirements in that course.
  - c. All requests for limited exceptions will be considered after broad consultation (like that described above), must have the concurrence of local public health and other regulatory officials, and must have the approval of the President and Chancellor's Office.
  - d. The availability of on-campus housing will be severely limited and require meeting rigorous thresholds for physical distancing.
4. Despite significant advances here at CSUDH, technological operations for and infrastructure capability of this campus have yet to be fully realized.
- a. Many faculty have become increasingly technology-savvy (even over the course of the past several weeks); however, a significant group of our colleagues requires some degree of up-skilling to meet the demands of a virtual and partially online university. Thus, CSUDH will engage in several professional development activities for faculty during the summer of 2020 so that faculty are poised and prepared to meet the demands of a virtual environment effectively.

- b. Similarly, we have many Student Affairs professionals and staff across all divisions, who deliver co-curricular programs and services. While many have also adapted well to our quick transition to the virtual world, they will also need a great deal of professional development to ensure they are providing optimal advising, mentoring, tutoring, programming, mental & physical health services, other co-curricular support initiatives, and administrative staff assistance.
- c. The digital divide is quite pronounced among our student body and staff personnel. Consequently, these groups will also require a significant investment of technology equipment and personnel that are available to the broader campus community for loans and consultation, respectively.
- d. The demographic composition of our student body, with significant numbers of high URMs, high PELL eligible, high first-generation, and high numbers in need of developmental courses requires more of a high touch/ high feel environment that addresses their needs for increased levels of faculty and staff engagement. We are committed to providing such, so that the more latent needs of our students can be addressed.

## THE PLAN

Given these factors, and after interrogating a dozen or more proposed operational systems for repopulating campuses nationally, the thinking of the CSU Dominguez Hills Executive Policy Group has moved to settle on a single model for the immediate future, even as the Fall 2020 Recovery Planning Committee will continue its gathering of input and summary of recommendations for campus operations moving forward. Following consultation, Chancellor White's message, understanding of government and health advisories, and our campus capacity to meet specific criteria, and obligations necessary to engage the academic enterprise amid this health crisis, we are announcing the following:

1. The vast majority of academic instruction will continue to function in a virtual, online, and telecommuting reality for the immediate and short-term future through December of 2020.
2. CSUDH will remain open; however, most campus buildings and facilities have been and will remain closed and locked until such time it is absolutely safe for repopulating these spaces. Campus visits will be limited, and should only be considered after guidance by an appropriate administrator.
3. All co-curricular activity, including student services, events including campus orientations, convocations, club meetings, guest speaker lectures, etc. will also be held virtually, or postponed until health and safety concerns can be significantly lowered and/or eliminated.
4. As the university transitions to digital hub operations, employees are expected to be fully engaged in providing these digital services, particularly when they are rendered in a

virtual environment. Therefore, the university's business operations will, by necessity, be reengineered to address emergent needs and the manner in which ongoing services will be provided, including enhanced customer service.

5. The athletic season of in-person practice, training, travel, and competition of CCAA team sports, including dance and cheerleading activities, will be canceled until further notice. Conversations are underway between Athletics administration, coaches, and the Vice President Student Affairs on how best to support our student athletes, dance team, and cheer squad. However, to the best of our ability, it is our intention to support student-athletes recruited to the campus, with an expectation, in consultation with their head coach, that they will be part of a team.
6. Consideration of full restoration of the campus to face-to-face operations beginning January 2021, or sometime thereafter, will be informed by consultation with all stakeholders, the best medical and scientific data available at the time, and only if the campus can meet the strict thresholds outlined above. Otherwise, the university will continue to operate in a primarily virtual environment.

In announcing this decision, the CSUDH campus is cognizant of and remains vigilant about the economic challenges that currently confront the state, and ultimately the CSU system. It is our hope and expectation however, that whatever budgetary reductions will be imposed on our university do not further erode the campus' capacity to meet its obligations to provide a "first in class" academic and co-curricular learning experience for our CSUDH students.

## NEW STUDENTS ENROLLMENT CONSIDERATIONS

This announcement about our fall semester in no way dissipates our hope and expectation that freshman and transfer students who have been newly admitted, and continuing students advancing to the next year, will enroll in fall courses and continue to make progress toward their degrees. We are aware that some students are considering information that advises them to delay enrollment or consider a gap year. On the contrary, while the economy is signaling difficulties in the employment market, the time is ripe for accelerating one's academic engagement with the expectation that when the market corrects and jobs become increasingly available, more highly educated and degree attaining individuals will be better prepared to accept those opportunities. Furthermore, the educational progress students are making potentially loses some or much of that momentum if their academics are delayed or halted by semester or year-long disruptions. Consequently, we encourage all students and families to stay the course and enroll in Fall 2020 as planned. Indeed, the social mobility of individuals and their families is exponentially enhanced with the completion of a college and/or advanced degree, and we urge students to stay on course toward degree completion. For our part, we will need to rise to the occasion in this regard, re-recruiting continuing students and wooing new cohorts of learners, while simultaneously gaining their confidence through demonstrating that we can

provide high-quality instruction and services students have come to expect of California State University Dominguez Hills.

## SUMMARY

Continued consultation with academic administrators, faculty, students, union representatives, staff, and others will allow us to better gauge the sentiments of the broader campus community, and determine appropriate adjustments in the days, weeks, and months ahead. Understanding that the 2019-20 academic year is ending, faculty departures for summer break are imminent, and the need to provide sufficient advanced warning to allow them to prepare for the instructional methodology we are committing to in the fall, demands that all receive timely notice of our plan immediately. The extensive list of stakeholders, including currently enrolled and newly admitted students, parents, faculty, and staff, have been awaiting a definitive answer as to campus operations we expect in the fall. We hope this communicate provides some clarity as all seek to crystallize their plans going forward.

Together, we will get through this health crisis.



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