



Coronavirus (COVID-19) INFORMATION BULLETIN

Student Frequently Asked Questions

Thank you to the students who have taken the time to submit questions via our survey link. Many of the questions were related to the same topics but submitted differently, so responded more generally in these cases. If you have additional questions regarding grades or individual issues regarding instruction, please contact your academic advisor, instructor or the Gateway Student Services. If you do not feel your question was addressed, please resubmit [here](#).

CARES Act funding

Stark State College has received federal funds to support our students' emergency expenses due to COVID-19. For more information on how to apply and access these funds, as well as a full list of frequently asked questions, please [go here](#). Applications for spring semester will be accepted until May 10.

Why have classes not taken a pass/fail format like other colleges/universities?

Pass/fail grades don't always transfer to universities, may not meet prerequisite requirements for courses, cannot be used to meet admission to health programs, and do not count toward retaking a course to raise GPA. For these reasons, letter grades best meet the needs of most Stark State College students.

Will there be hands-on classes for culinary?

Hands-on classes will resume as soon as we are permitted to do so, per Governor DeWine's orders.

Will we get our cap and gowns before May 17, and when will we receive diplomas and degrees?

Caps and gowns will be available to students through the College Store the week of May 18. Degrees and certificates will be posted for those who have completed all degree requirements the week of May 18, and diplomas and certificates will be mailed to students the week of June 8.

Why am I continuously reminded to complete a Sexual Assault Prevention for Community Colleges when limited students are on campus?

It is critical that we provide a safe educational environment for students. While physical harassment is the most publicized form of harassment, not all harassment is physical in nature. Stark State College strives to provide a safe college campus, whether we are physically on campus or virtual. We appreciate you taking the time to fulfill this annual requirement.

How can I apply for the assistance for my summer tuition?

Students complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.gov as the first step in applying for financial aid. We have Gateway Representatives available to help you complete the FAFSA and answer your questions about financial aid and other payment sources at Gateway Student Services:

Main campus: 330-494-6170 ext. 4301 | studentservices@starkstate.edu
SSC Akron: 330-494-6170 ext. 4670 | akron@starkstate.edu

I am having trouble balancing work, family and other responsibilities while learning remotely, and/or I am dealing with stress that is impacting my schooling; what should I do?

First, reach out to your instructor to discuss your individual situation. Another option is to contact the Dean of Student Success, Dr. Fedearia Nicholson-Sweval, fnicholson@starkstate.edu.

We know during this time of uncertainty you and other students may have ongoing needs and challenges. Your mental and emotional health is also important to us. If you need to talk with someone during this time, the College provides counseling and intervention services which can be accessed remotely here.

Elizabeth Inkinen Schehl | 330-846-1336 ext. 4219 | eschehl@starkstate.edu
Caryn Griffin | 330-494-6170 ext. 5387 | cgriffin@starkstate.edu

In addition, resources for community programs have increased with the COVID-19 efforts. The most comprehensive list of available resources is from United Way 2-1-1. You can connect by dialing 2-1-1 on any phone or text your zip code to 898-211. You can also visit the individual county websites:

Stark: www.uwstark.org
Summit: www.uwsummit.org
Portage: www.uwportage.org
Wayne & Holmes: www.uwwh.org

If you'd like assistance for referrals, [visit here](#).

I have three online classes in science – will they stay online?

Web classes scheduled for summer will remain online, and faculty have worked hard to make sure all learning outcomes will be met.

Why the sudden change in opening Stark State?

Stark State is following the Governor's plan for phasing in the reopening of the state. For summer, the majority of classes will be offered remotely through online and other virtual modalities. The few exceptions are labs and skills-based learning that cannot be delivered remotely. Those few classes are scheduled to be offered later in the summer term. Our plan for

phasing in campus-based classes is identical to what other community colleges in Ohio are planning.

Do you plan on having fall back to in-person classes?

We are planning to resume face-to-face classes in the fall, following health and safety guidelines provided by state health authorities. However, our ability to do so will depend on the Governor's directive.

How are you doing at this time of crisis?

Thank you for asking. Like you and everyone else in the U.S. and world, I'm dealing with this as well as one can. We are being careful to social distance and limit our exposure for the benefit of others, our family and ourselves. Beyond the obvious negative impacts on health, the economy, jobs and daily life, this is a time of uncertainty, which creates anxiety. We know during this time of uncertainty you and other students may have ongoing needs and challenges. Your mental and emotional health is also important to us. If you need to talk with someone during this time, the College provides counseling and intervention services, which can be [accessed remotely here](#).

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How do I know if I'm enrolled in online summer classes?

Summer classes that are online were determined in advance. Students can review their class schedules. Online courses have times noted as TBA (to be announced). The best way to review your class schedule is by talking to your academic advisor or a Gateway advisor. Call Gateway Student Services for more information, 330-494-6170 ext. 4301.

How do I access my online summer classes?

Students who have completed the online eStarkState orientation will be able to access classes in Blackboard. If you have problems accessing your classes via Blackboard, please contact the Help Desk at 330-494-6170 ext. 4357 (HELP).

Do we know when the TEAS test is available to take for the LPN program?

Please contact Barb Dawson at bdawson@starkstate.edu. Dates for TEAS have been determined.

I am concerned with returning to in-person classes and staying safe.

We understand your concerns and please know that Stark State is following health protocols, including face masks and social distancing at the College and in the classroom. Your instructor has determined the arrangements needed to do so. Please feel free to reach out to your instructor if you have further concerns.