

UNIVERSITY OF PHOENIX: UOPX Notice to College of Nursing Students Program Adjustments

March 19, 2020

Dear Students,

In this Year of the Nurse and Midwife, we are reminded that nurses have always been the example of leadership in times of crisis. This unprecedented evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic is our most current example. Together with nurses in every hospital, community care setting, pharmacy and physician office, we serve as the front line of defense and leaders of offensive efforts. Please know that the College of Nursing is here to support all of you.

As you are aware, we are reacting daily to the unprecedented evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic. To best support our College of Nursing students and faculty, we have outlined some important information below that should address frequently asked questions. Additionally, the University has established a [microsite](#) on Phoenix.edu that houses communication related to COVID-19.

Course scheduling

Local – The University sent communication on 3/13 that local campus courses would move to virtual meetings starting 3/16. Local campus students will attend courses as normally scheduled but do so synchronously via Blackboard Collaborate. Please reference the microsite for related resources. Note: Any courses that had to be rescheduled have been communicated to the impacted students. We will continue to communicate if any other scheduling changes occur.

Online – Online courses will continue to run as scheduled and course specific questions should be directed to faculty. Please review the program specific information below.

All students – If you are unable to continue with courses at this time, for any reason, you can choose to take a Leave of Absence. Please speak with your Academic Counselor regarding this option.

Program specific information

LPN/LVN to BSN

Arizona – Students will be able to complete virtual simulation to meet the clinical hours during this period when local campus facilities are closed. This will not require students or faculty to be on campus because it will be completed virtually. Additional details will be provided by your faculty and program chair.

California – We are working to determine options for students to complete clinical requirements, while still meeting California BRN regulations. Updates will be communicated as they are finalized. In the meantime, students who are currently in a course that has a clinical component can complete the didactic component of the course and receive an IP (In Progress) grade until the clinical component can

be completed. Students receiving an IP grade will need to take a leave of absence until they can complete the clinical requirements and start a new course.

MSN/FNP

Due to the national crisis related to COVID-19 virus, we understand that some students' ability to complete clinical requirements for their current course may be impacted due to individual facility restrictions. Students in clinical courses may be able to continue their clinical rotations, if they are not symptomatic, their preceptor(s)/site(s) are willing, and that they feel safe doing so. Please be aware that this is contingent on these sites being able to permit students into their locations in accordance with state and local government restrictions that may change at any time.

Students who are currently in a clinical course and cannot complete the clinical component by the end of the course, please speak to your faculty about the option to complete the didactic component of the course and receive an IP (In Progress) grade until the clinical component can be completed. This may necessitate a leave of absence. If you cannot complete the clinical component please notify your Academic Counselor, the course instructor, and your clinical coordinator as soon as possible.

We are collaborating with our regulatory agencies to determine if there are other options for course progression. This includes skills checks that occur during NRP/516 and NRP/552 (v8) or residency during NRP/571 (v10), we are looking into alternative options for validating skills so that students can progress in their program. More information will be forthcoming as it is finalized. Regardless of prospective alternative options, the same number of hours will be required to successfully complete the course/program of study.

RN to BSN and MSN (ADM/NED/INF)

There are no scheduling impacts for these programs. Any courses that have a face to face requirement (practicum etc.) can be accommodated through virtual communication and activities. Please connect with your faculty member for any specific questions.

We understand there is a lot going on in our students' lives, and the addition of the COVID-19 pandemic can be overwhelming. Please reach out to your Academic Counselor to discuss questions or concerns you have as you progress in your program. As always, the College of Nursing is dedicated to supporting our students and we will continue to provide information to keep you informed.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Winston, RN, PhD
Dean, College of Nursing