South Texas College Fall semester classes begin Monday, August 24, 2020
First week of classes will be Online

Our highest priority is the safety and well-being of all South Texas College students, faculty, and staff. Therefore, the instructional plan summarized below may be modified should new state or federal guidelines be released prior to the August start date.

Before classes begin, all instructional spaces and buildings will undergo a thorough deep cleaning, and disinfecting will be ongoing throughout the semester. Preventive protocols to reduce risk of transmission will also be implemented across campuses. Further details will be shared with students, faculty, and staff before classes begin in August.

The College will be offering courses through *In Person-Hybrid* **and** *Online* formats. The College will make extensive use of technology, while preserving the most important elements of the in-person required activities, as guidelines and safety precautions allow.

Fall 2020 Semester Course Offerings Delivery Model:

In Person-Hybrid Classes:

- The first week of classes will be online to provide students with orientation and to organize students into cohorts for the face-to-face (F2F) meeting times.
- In person classes will have reduced seat time and will be supplemented with the College's online learning management system (Blackboard).
- In person lecture classes will be capped at 20 students. Each F2F meeting will have no more than 10 students.
- During the first week of online instruction, faculty will divide the 20 students into two cohorts and inform each student through Blackboard which day they should attend the F2F meeting. There will be a once-a-week F2F meeting time for each cohort.
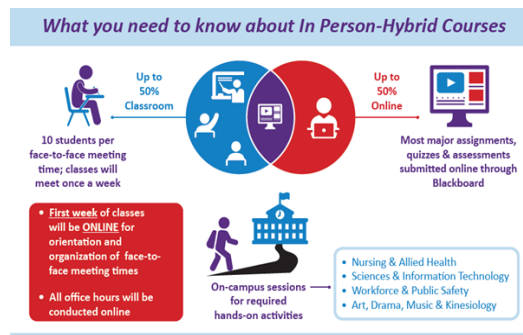
- In person meeting times will be dedicated to the most important elements of the in-person required activities.
- Most major assignments, quizzes, and assessments will be submitted through Blackboard.
- Nursing & Allied Health, Sciences & Information Technology, Workforce & Public Safety, Art, Drama & Kinesiology courses will use this hybrid format by using technology to deliver content and hold in-person sessions for required hands-on activities.
- Instructional courses with hands-on requirements will have a reduced seat time. Faculty will rotate students into the space to conduct in-person activities while maintaining social distancing for each F2F meeting time.
- Please note that all office hours will be conducted online.

Online Classes:
- Totally online courses have been designed to incorporate best practices with many opportunities for students to engage with each other and the instructor.
- Content is accessible virtually, through video, students can even let a page reader read the content to them.
- Students are supported online seven days a week and can schedule online office hours with instructors.
- Faculty who teach our online courses have been certified through a rigorous program that prepares them to use the tools of modern online education.

Dual Credit Courses:
- Online Course Offerings: Most dual credit courses "S" sections will be offered through online delivery. All online courses will require adherence to security measures currently in place to protect faculty and students while learning in an online environment.
- Limited In Person-Hybrid Offerings: Career and Technical Education and/or Academic courses which require hands-on activities will be offered as hybrid courses. Dual Credit courses held at approved High School Sites must submit a Safety Plan no later than August 3, 2020.

South Texas College Safety Guidelines for Offering in Person Classes:
- The College will determine the density for each building and classroom based on recommended guidelines.
- The College will limit the number of classes in each building to lessen student foot traffic at any given time.
- The College will maintain social distancing in classrooms and labs.
- The College will clean and disinfect classrooms and labs after each face-to-face meeting.
- The College will require face coverings (e.g. masks) on campus in all campus buildings, classrooms, laboratories, computer labs, and libraries.
  - Faculty will have the option of face masks or face shields
  - Face coverings are not required in one's personal office space, as long as 6-foot distancing can be maintained

General Campus Requirements:
- Do not visit the campus if you are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms, such as coughing, sore throat, fever, or shortness of breath.
- Do not visit the campus if within the past 14 days you have knowingly been in contact with someone who is under investigation for or confirmed to have COVID-19.

Libraries, Open Labs and CLEs Usage:

Libraries
- The available seating within the library is limited in order to comply with social distancing guidelines.
- Anyone visiting the library is required to wear face protection that covers the nose and mouth.
- Library visitors are directed to wash or sanitize their hands upon entering the library.
- Social distancing of at least six (6) feet is being observed in study spaces and interactions among students and staff members.
- Desks, chairs, and other frequently touched surfaces are cleaned and sanitized after every use.
- Items from the Course Reserves collection or the general print collection are permitted to be used only under staff supervision, and the requestor is required to wear gloves while using the print item to minimize contact with the item.

Open Computer Labs
- Students are encouraged to reserve a computer online in advance, but walk-ins will be accommodated depending on workstation availability.
- The available seating within open computer labs is limited in order to comply with social distancing guidelines.
- Anyone visiting an open computer lab is required to wear face protection that covers the nose and mouth.
- Open computer lab visitors are directed to wash or sanitize their hands upon entering the lab.
- Social distancing of at least six (6) feet is being observed in study spaces and interactions among students and staff members.
- Computer workstations, chairs, and other frequently touched surfaces are cleaned and sanitized after every use.

Centers for Learning Excellence (CLE)
- All on-campus tutoring is available by appointment only
- Check the Tutoring page to see schedules for each campus with tutoring availability by class prior to submitting a Tutoring Appointment Request.
- So that we may employ proper social distancing measures, only individuals who have confirmed appointments may use the CLE on campus.
- While in the CLE, practice social distancing by maintaining a distance of at least 6 feet from other individuals.
- All individuals are required to wear face protection that covers the nose and mouth.
- CLE appointments are for up to 45 minutes a session, with a maximum of two sessions per day per class.

- CLE resources such as textbooks and calculators are permitted to be used only under staff supervision, and the student is required to wear gloves while using the item to minimize contact with the item.