

FAQs from Academic Affairs

What steps is the college taking to protect me from the COVID-19 virus?

The COVID-19 virus spreads through human contact or contact with infected air surrounding a person with the virus. The College has implemented an enhanced cleaning schedule, with doorknobs, surfaces, and computers being wiped down regularly. Staff and students are also encouraged to wash their hands frequently.

The goal of Solano College's safety measures is to minimize contact. For this reason, classes are being converted to online formats, when possible, to limit personal interaction.

Why haven't you closed the campus and cancelled classes until this passes?

Solano Community College is following the guidance provided by the [Solano County Department of Public Health](#). Since Solano County is still considered low risk, there has been no directive to close public institutions. Nonetheless, the College is taking extraordinary steps to protect the community.

We have not cancelled classes or shut down instruction because our students have educational goals to complete, and they are looking to us to make sure this happens. If we shut the school down or cancel classes for the remainder of the semester, students would not get credit for the classes that they have paid for and have been attending. Instead, we are working to ensure that instruction can continue in one form or another.

We do not know when this health risk will go away. With proper action, it may go away soon. It is rapidly evolving, so there is also the chance that it will get worse. Because the situation is fluid, we are taking steps to ensure instructional continuity with the utmost of care.

I saw a message that "most" classes are being cancelled. Is my class one of those?

Online classes will continue uninterrupted. Because these classes are already offered in a way that doesn't spread the virus, there is no reason to disrupt the learning process.

Most lecture classes will be converted to an online format. This is not an easy task. Some courses may not lend themselves to an online format, and some faculty will need to quickly learn how to teach online if they have never done so. Because of this, we are relying on our faculty to determine if a class will go online.

Students in some "cohort" programs will need to meet uninterrupted. For example, students in the Aeronautics program or those in Nursing have to complete a specific number of hours of training, and this is not negotiable. In those cases, the students know if their classes will continue uninterrupted.

Face-to-face classes starting March 16 will not meet the first week. These short-term classes are already on a tight schedule, and the class cancellations for the week of March 16 will make it that much harder to cover the content of the course. We understand this. However, the College feels that it is important to cancel classes for one week in order to help faculty convert their courses and prepare themselves for this new teaching experience.

If classes are cancelled the week of March 16-20, won't that mean that I won't get all the class material? Will my learning be not as good?

The College has experienced short-term class cancellations in the past. Last year, for example, the campus shut down for a couple of days due to poor air quality because of smoke from surrounding fires.

In emergency situations like this, the College has special permission to adjust class meeting times. Ultimately, it is up to the faculty to ensure that students learn the essential material from their course. If 17 weeks of instruction can be shortened into 16 weeks or even 14 weeks, and students meet the same learning outcomes, then we have met our goal. Faculty may decide change their syllabus to accommodate a shortened timeline.

I've never taken an online course. What should I expect?

Online classes are offered through [Canvas](#), our web-based learning management system. In an online format, instruction will be delivered in a number of ways. Instead of a faculty member standing in front of you delivering a lecture, the lecture may be posted as written notes or in a PowerPoint presentation. Some faculty will video record a lecture and post that for viewing, perhaps followed by some questions that students will need to answer. Tests may be given online in Canvas rather than in a classroom.

In all cases, we are encouraging faculty to communicate often with students via email or through their Canvas page. If you have a question, please do not hesitate to email your instructor.

For those students uncomfortable with online learning, the College will be hosting a few workshops to help you become familiar with Canvas. The schedule of these workshops can be found at <http://www.solano.edu/studentupdate/>.

I need my current class in order to graduate. What if it gets cancelled?

No classes have been cancelled. Our goal is to help every student finish their courses and continue on their educational path.

If you are unable to complete a course due to your own illness or other situation, please contact your instructor. We want to work with you, and dropping is not the only option.

How long will this last?

Our current move to online format is effective through the end of Spring Break (April 6-12). During Spring Break, the college will assess the status of the COVID-19 outbreak in our community and decide whether classes will continue in online formats or if it is safe to return to regular class offerings. We will continually update our messages, so be on the lookout!