March 2020

Stay Informed with UNCW’s Response to Coronavirus: www.uncw.edu/coronavirus

"Nobody told me there’d be days like these; Strange days indeed" ~ John Lennon

On behalf of Disability Resource Center, I share our hope you are safe and have adequate resources at this extraordinary time. We are aware the current situation is unprecedented, and is very likely a stressful experience for many of you. DRC remains committed to supporting students through this experience and we encourage you to reach out should you have need. To that end, please note DRC is operating remotely and not providing face-to-face appointments at this time. This is to protect our staff as well as you from possible illness.

Please read the information we have compiled, and watch for ongoing messages to assist you in being successful this semester and moving forward. Best wishes in the weeks and months ahead.

Be Well—
Chris Stone, Director

Please Use Caution: Some individuals with chronic medical conditions (e.g., heart disease, Diabetes, respiratory illness, Cystic Fibrosis) may be at a higher risk from being sick with COVID-19.

www.cdc.gov/coronavirus

Coronavirus Questions or Concerns? coronavirus@uncw.edu

If you are a student in Wilmington and experiencing the symptoms listed below, particularly during or after international travel, or to high-risk areas, it is critical you contact the UNCW Student Health Center immediately [910-962-3280] or speak with your personal medical provider.

Watch for Symptoms

♦ Fever
♦ Cough
♦ Shortness of breath (difficulty breathing)

HELP KEEP EVERYONE SAFE
♦ Wash Your Hands Frequently
♦ Cough or Sneeze Into Your Elbow
♦ Disinfect Frequently Touched Surfaces (Phones, Laptops, Remotes, Doorknobs, etc.)
♦ Avoid Touching Your Face

AND...if you feel sick—STAY HOME!! DO NOT go in public, and call UNCW’s Student Health Center or Your Medical Provider if needed.

DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER
*UPDATED* Hours of Operation
Monday - Friday, 8 am - 5 pm*

No Face-to-Face Appointments Until Further Notice

DRC STAFF
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Division of Student Affairs
Creating Experiences for Life
WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Accommodations
♦ Review the new syllabi. Are your current accommodations appropriate for the new expectations, or do they need to be reconsidered?

♦ Some accommodations still apply, and others may be less necessary, due to online courses.

♦ Communicate with your faculty. Even if you did so initially, providing your faculty with a reminder as they navigate this experience will help ensure accommodations are addressed smoothly.
  ♦ Confirm they are aware of your accommodation plans through DRC.
  ♦ Inform them of your use of testing accommodations (e.g., Extended Time) so they prepare appropriately.

♦ Students with questions about their accommodations or who encounter additional barriers due to the new format of courses should contact the Disability Resource Center as soon as possible.

Testing Accommodations
♦ DRC will not administer testing at this time. Students believing DRC proctoring is needed must make a request for special circumstance.

  ♦ The DRC PORTAL for exam scheduling has been disabled until further notice.
  ♦ All requests must be made by contacting DRC by phone or email, and approved, a minimum of 2 days prior to the exam date.

Smart Pens
DRC loans technology to students and asks they coordinate its return when no longer being utilized.
Staff will be reaching out to students later in the semester to discuss return of smart pens so they can be checked and ready for loan again next semester.

♦ Not returning to Wilmington until Fall 2020? Call or email.
♦ Graduating or not returning to UNCW? Call or email.

DRC staff members continue to monitor their phone and email inboxes during regular business hours. If you have concerns that were not addressed in our newsletter, please contact us!

Students registered with the DRC are able to schedule SEA.lab sessions with the Assistant Director for Student Learning to explore specific techniques and strategies designed to improve academic performance. These sessions will be available by phone or Zoom meeting for the remainder of this semester.
TIPS FOR SUCCEEDING IN AN ONLINE CLASS

1. Treat your online class (or online portion) just like you would a face-to-face course. Online content is just as important as content received through in-person instruction. Read all assignments and prepare ahead of time for synchronous class meetings.

2. Set goals and hold yourself accountable. Review all deadlines and check in to your Learning Management System (Canvas) to stay up to date with submitting assignments and also any changes.

3. Utilize Time Management strategies. As soon as you have the syllabus, make note of major assignments. Mark them on a calendar you check regularly so you know what is due in the days/weeks coming up. Identify specific hours each day/week for reading, instruction time, assignments, and studying.

4. Create a regular study space and stay organized. Working in an area you set up a dedicated learning environment helps establish a routine.

5. Eliminate distractions. For online courses, you are responsible for the environment you’re in when you’re learning and completing coursework. Turn off your cell phone to distractions. Limit environmental noise if it interferes with your ability to concentrate.

6. Actively participate. Participate in the course’s online discussion forums will help you better understand course materials and engage with fellow classmates. Read what other students and your professor are saying, and if you have a question, ask for clarification.

7. If you don’t know, ask! Online classes may sometimes seem isolating, but most online content is built around the concept of collaboration. If you have questions about material, need help understanding an assignment, or need to use accommodations for online tests, always reach out to your instructor right away!

And contact the Disability Resource Center with your questions or for assistance.

*Adapted from: “8 Strategies for Getting the Most Out of An Online Class” [https://www.northeastern.edu/graduate/blog/tips-for-taking-online-classes/]

Keep Learning, Seahawks!

UNCW has made resources available to help you have a successful Spring semester. Visit: https://uncw.edu/keeplearning