

From: [Peter Eden](#)
To: [Peter Eden](#)
Subject: LC Update - Semester Schedule and Program
Date: Wednesday, March 18, 2020 8:12:56 PM
Importance: High

Dear students, families, faculty and staff:

Landmark College recognizes student success and overall safety as the top two areas of focus. We also know that our residential campus learning-living environment is optimal for our students. However, it is our personalized approach to education and our ability to adapt and change, for a single student or for larger curriculum and program-based efforts, that truly sets us apart from other colleges. Adherent to these areas of focus and knowing that we can and will adapt continually, we are updating the plans and providing more details.

Our current plan has been to have the majority of students return to campus by Sunday, March 29th and to resume instruction on Monday, March 30th. Resumption of instruction was and still is expected to rely on online modalities, whether students are on campus or are off campus (e.g. at home). Please see our updated plan and semester schedule below.

1. Classes (instruction) will still resume on March 30th, using online platforms. However, the **earliest possible return to campus date for students is Saturday and Sunday, April 18 and 19.**
 - a. Why? Given the escalating reality of self-quarantine and restrictions on gatherings of people, we do not want to see any additional risk of infection for our students, and we do not want to have all of our students present on campus if faculty and staff are not here in sufficient numbers to safely and effectively serve them.
 - b. This return date could be changed based on factors outside of and within our control, but it will not be shortened. An **update will be provided on or before April 12.** Our hope is to see our students on campus at the earliest point deemed safe and achievable.

2. A small number of students have remained on campus during the current spring break and they will be allowed to stay here. As we offered students who are away from the College the option of a return to LC during week two of the extended break, a small number have requested an early return for next week (March 22 or 25). Due to swiftly changing coronavirus risks and repercussions, we are assessing our ability to allow them to return. The requests for early return that have been submitted and any others we may receive in the next several days will be assessed on a case-by-case basis based on hardship, risk factors related to their current location and mode of travel, etc. That is, we may allow some additional students to return early but this will be restricted to ensure the safety of the LC community. [To register for a return time on April 18 or 19 or to make a special request a return to campus housing before April 18-19 please complete the **Return from Spring Break Update form**](#)

3. **How will students be supported?** In the spirit of continuous improvement and adaptation based on student learning styles and outcomes, we are envisioning a “3 week by 3 week by 3

week” structure to course and support delivery for our students:

- a. **March 30 – April 17** involves online learning, increased student support, and other online engagement offerings. Importantly:
 - i. We will provide a soft start to the courses so as to minimize any initial overload with this method of learning. We will triage student (work)load based on current success, goals, and abilities. We will provide a revised academic plan to help students stay on track.
 - ii. Our model of academic support will be adjusted and augmented, resulting in advising resources that are informed by the coaching model and that promise to deliver daily connections with each student. Moreover, this enhanced advising structure and system will allow parents to better connect with the advisor, and the advisor to gain feedback when appropriate from parents.
 - iii. We will likely offer a Pass-Fail grading option to students whom would most benefit from such. And, we will likely revise the course withdrawal date in light of the changes experienced.
 - b. **April 20 – May 8** entails everything above, but will mark the assessment point when we can further adjust academic plans, make changes needed for individual students, etc. As mentioned, this is also the point by which we will have determined if increased student return to campus is safe and appropriate.
 - c. **May 8 – end of May** is the final phase of course and experience delivery, with time built in for course extensions as needed. We may even offer 3 week courses for students desiring and needing such.
4. **Semester extension, etc.** In light of the serious challenges we are facing and our objective to achieve student success, as well as the revisions to the model described above, we are planning for extension of the spring semester into the final week of May.
- a. We aim to hold a commencement ceremony at the end of the semester for our graduating students. It may be in a format unlike that of the past, based on realities and constraints, but we will create something meaningful for students, families, and our community. Specific plans and details will be provided in April.
 - b. The Business Office will be providing information and updates regarding billing and other relevant matters as we move forward.
5. **We will provide more guidance and convey further our confidence that students will be supported and successful.** A listing of the many academic-related support services, health- and counseling-related resources, student life-based activities etc. to be made available in an online format will be provided in another message, which will focus on guidance regarding getting ready to learn online. This will come out from Academic Affairs and Student Affairs by Friday.

Thank you for understanding the extraordinary situation we all find ourselves in. We truly hope that you will continue to trust Landmark College to help students succeed, albeit in different ways as we move forward through this crisis together. If you have questions please reach out to me or to publichealth@landmark.edu.

Take good care, please.

PE

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President

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U.S. News and World Report 2019 Rankings:

#1 Most Innovative College; Regional - North

#1 Undergraduate Teaching; Regional - North