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Subject: College of Pharmacy Update
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Hello Rising P2s, P3s, and Current P4 students:

First and foremost, in times like these, it is more important than ever to continue to stay connected. As individuals are struggling with difficult emotions due to racial injustice, the uncertainty of what lies ahead given the COVID-19 pandemic, and a variety of other stressors individuals are coping with at this time, we want you to know that your College of Pharmacy Family is here for you. Monday's message from Dean Dalton is forwarded below in case you have not had a chance to read this yet. **We see YOU. We are here for YOU. Please reach out if you need someone to talk to. You are not alone.**

To continue to help foster community and connection over the summer, we are going to reinstitute our messaging to keep you informed as we learn more about what to expect for the Fall. So, let's get to it:

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What can I expect for the Fall?

The uncertainties with the virus are difficult for everyone. Rest assured that College of Pharmacy faculty and staff are working hard to balance your safety and instruction for the Fall semester.

Safety

PharmD students are not yet allowed back into the College, but we have opened up labs on a limited basis so that faculty and grad students can begin to ramp up research. We have strict limits to the numbers of people allowed into the building. At the lobby, all building entrants undergo a screening and temperature check (**see photo**). Those that pass the screening receive a one-day badge (the dated green sticker in the photo) and are allowed in until we reach building capacity. Those that do not pass screening go to get checked for COVID. We don't know what the building capacity limits will be in Fall, but I expect that we will not be open for studying after hours. Currently the building is closed to everybody after normal business hours. We don't know yet about hosting student events. These decisions are made at the University level.



Learning

While specific guidance has not yet been issued, we are planning to conduct as many in person classes as social distancing permits. We are working now to identify content where in person instruction is critical, such as practice skills. As we are asking faculty and staff, your flexibility with your class schedules and expectations will be necessary – we WILL get through this together and strive to ensure your learning experience in the year ahead exceeds your expectations. We are also learning it is likely the academic calendar will be modified with the possibility of removal of fall break and remote learning occurring as much as possible after Thanksgiving break with an earlier class end date. Stay tuned for more information. We will communicate more information as soon as we get it!

Tell me more about grade masking.

The University of Michigan adjusted its grading policy for the Winter 2020 semester due to the COVID19 Pandemic. These changes marked all courses as either Pass (P) if you received a passing grade or No Record COVID (NRC) if you did not receive a passing grade. If students would like the letter grade received to show on their transcripts to the outside world, they must “unmask” their grade. **The deadline to unmask grades is July 1, 2020.**

Should I Unmask My Grades?

- If the grade in a course aligns with the other grades on your transcript, unmaking may be beneficial
- If the grade in a course is lower than the other grades on your transcript, unmasking may not be beneficial
- A “P” will keep your GPA the same on your transcript and still meet the passing requirements of the College
- A “NCR” will not alter your GPA, but does not meet passing requirements of the College
- You do not have to unmask every grade, for example you might only want to keep one of your courses masked. If you had all A’s except for one course, mask that course’s grade!
- Use of a GPA calculator may aid your decision to unmask your grades; be cautious if the converter shows your GPA dropping below a 2.0 when grades are unmasked

Will Keeping My Grades Masked Impact My Future Plans?

- A Pandemic is not easy to forget, so many reviewing your transcripts will remember the impact this situation had and allow you to explain your choice regarding your grades.
- The change in grading is not unique to the University of Michigan, however, not every university chose to let students unmask their grades. Therefore, it is hard to compare students based on the Winter 2020 semester. Students should expect that your choice regarding unmasking your grades will not have as much of an impact as all other semesters because of the University to University differences
- A decision has not been made by the University about grade masking for the current Spring/Summer or the upcoming Fall semester.

If you have any additional questions regarding unmasking your grades, **submit your questions [here](#)**. We are more than happy to discuss your questions and concerns.

If you would like to review additional resources related to the information above, see:
<https://ro.umich.edu/records-registration/covid-19-winter-2020-grading/undergraduate>
<https://lsa.umich.edu/advising/policies-procedures/considerations-for-converting-p-nrc-grades-after-the-winter-2020.html>

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***New* and Reminder of Available Well-being Resources**

[Silvercloud](#)

Well-being is dynamic, and stressors can cause shifts that require re-assessment of coping mechanisms. [SilverCloud](#) is an online resource that has teamed up with the University of Michigan to help students, faculty, and staff take a look at their well-being status. Take a short quiz and link to individualized resources based on your results.

[CAPS Virtual Summer Services](#)

- Don't forget! CAPS still offers their services during the Spring/Summer semester!
- Online Individual clinical services
- Online groups, workshops and lunch series
- Virtual In-Depth Screenings
- Finding a Mental Health Provider in Your Community
- COVID Support
- CAPS is also introducing a NEW Virtual Graduate Therapy Group Tuesdays from 3:1-4:15 pm. This group offers support in exploration of personal growth and gaining awareness of how individuals function best in personal and academic settings. This is a great group for those seeking community regarding important relationships, support during the pandemic, and explore feelings in an interprofessional environment.

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WAIT – I have other questions!

Submit your questions [here](#) regarding the upcoming Fall 2020 term. We will be monitoring and responding to this regularly.

We're also planning on hosting future town halls, as needed, so stay tuned!

BAM

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