

From: [Mueller, Bruce](#)
Subject: Update from the COP Dean's Office for PharmD Students
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Attachments: [image005.png](#)



Office of the Dean

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August 11, 2020

PharmD Students,

Hello! I wanted to send out a quick note to catch you up on our Fall semester planning.

GENERAL INFORMATION *(applies to all)*

- Answers to most of your questions have already been answered here:
[PharmD Student Q&A Page](#)
If you have new questions, please ask on that page for a prompt response.
- **Lessons Learned from Winter 2020:** Immediately following finals in W20, we worked with our pharmacy students in our Leadership Scholars Program (LSP) to identify best practices for remote learning. The LSP team reviewed feedback from students from all course evaluations specific to the questions about what did and did not work with remote teaching. They also reviewed student and faculty feedback from the end-of-semester surveys and from a national survey identifying benefits and challenges related to the move to remote teaching. Their review led to a series of recommended actions. Summarized below are some questions/answers about fall planning:
 - **Why are we having in-person exams?** Students consistently reported low personal motivation in winter 2020. One of the contributing factors to the lack of motivation was open-book exams with many students reporting they were not motivated to study for exams when they would be allowed to look things up. It was recommended by students that in-person exams be given in 2020-2021, if possible.
 - **Why will I be asked to have my camera on during zoom small-group sessions?** In professional meetings within the college and at the hospital, turning on cameras is expected as it increases engagement and improves connection between meeting participants. Students reported in winter term that having cameras off negatively impacted team dynamics in classes. Therefore, we will be asking

students to have their cameras on during small-group discussions in class. Turning on video helps with learning, building connections, increasing collaboration and accountability, and improving focus during classes and meetings.

- **Why isn't the College of Pharmacy making courses easier due to the ongoing pandemic?** Although COVID-19 has caused many stressors in students' lives, the College of Pharmacy must continue to ensure that it is teaching and preparing students to become licensed professionals. While some flexibility in how we meet accreditation standards has been provided by ACPE, our accrediting body, the standards for the PharmD degree have not changed. Areas where limited flexibility has been extended by ACPE, and which we have implemented as appropriate, are in the area of the experiential education component of our program. For example, ACPE allowed students to participate in tele-pharmacy in limited instances, and we did incorporate that in our IPPE/APPEs when the option was provided by the site.
- **What should I do if I am having internet/connectivity issues?** Remote instruction requires flexibility and understanding of the varying resources available to individuals at home. Connectivity issues are a daily occurrence and can be stressful in the moment. The University provides [helpful resources](#) for internet connectivity issues and options to students for discounts with internet providers. We are updating our website so that students can find this information easily in MyCOP Student Business. In addition, if students are unable to afford adequate internet services, they can contact the [Office of Financial Aid](#) to apply for special assistance with internet or equipment costs related to COVID. If you experience connectivity issues, it is important to communicate the issue as soon as possible and be patient and flexible when challenges occur. Contact Student Services so we can help you find the appropriate fix for your connectivity issue. To proactively prevent frustration by this limitation, please ensure that you have adequate internet bandwidth.
- **Grading System for Fall Term:** Discussions are currently occurring on central campus regarding grading for fall term. Information will be shared once decisions have been made.
- **Safety Precautions:** I am hopeful that I will be able to share our plans for how we will handle our classes in the Pharmacy Building. We are working on safety measures to ensure social distancing and keeping the learning areas clean.

CLASS-SPECIFIC INFORMATION

P1 Students

- **Support for International Students:** If you have questions or are in need of support from current pharmacy students, check out [this Facebook group](#) created

by students for our international students. Two current students have also offered their contact information to any new international students who do not have Facebook or would like to speak with a current student to have questions answered. Chloe Koo: kykoo@med.umich.edu; Christabel Lo: cpslo@med.umich.edu

Our [UM International Center](#) and [Student Affairs administrative staff](#) at the College are other great sources of information for our international students.

P1, P2 and P3 Students

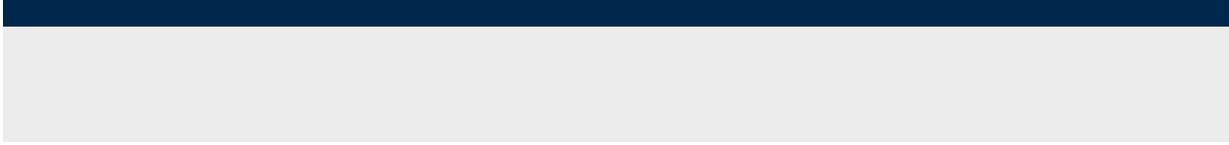
- **RESPONSES DUE TODAY! Clarification on In-Person Small Group Learning Preferences:** <https://forms.gle/pWiP3uKQvkHmLLNw9>

The in-person learning referenced in the Dean's Update from 8/4 is referring to the required *in-person* sessions as noted in the calendars that were discussed at the July class meetings and shared with all cohorts (P1-P3) on 7/31. For P1s, this includes the Tuesday in-person labs in various courses. For P3s, it includes the MC700 discussion sessions. For P2s, there are only two in-person skills lab assessments. Again, we will do our best to take your preferences into consideration when grouping students together for in-person sessions.

RESOURCE INFORMATION

- **CARES Act Funding:** The University of Michigan-Ann Arbor created an application for students to complete and submit if they would like to receive emergency grant support for COVID related expenses such as (but not limited to), food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child care. You can apply directly through Wolverine Access or contact the [Financial Aid Office](#) for more information.
- **Child Care Subsidy:** The University of Michigan offers a [Child Care Subsidy](#) to students to assist with the cost of licensed child care of their young, dependent children. Students are temporarily eligible for reimbursement under the subsidy, regardless of the state, country, or agency of licensure. Previously, eligibility was limited to the State of Michigan.
- **Your Wellbeing:** Find out what Wellness Coaching is all about [here](#), then check out [Wellness Coaching](#) opportunities through Wolverine Wellness to support behavior change! Common topics include sleep, nutrition, stress, anxiety management, academic concerns, and more. We all can use extra support during these tough times, so explore and strengthen your skill set for the semester ahead.

Sincerely,
Bruce Mueller
Interim Dean and Professor of Clinical Pharmacy



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