

March 20, 2020

Dear Pima student,

I hope you are coping well during this extraordinary time. We at Pima recognize and appreciate that for you this has been a Spring Break like no other. That's true for us, too.

Pima's faculty and staff have been working hard to relaunch the Spring semester so that you can receive the best possible education experience while staying healthy and safe.

In a [message sent to faculty and staff](#), Chancellor Lee D. Lambert on March 19 said the College anticipates that virtual learning will continue to the end of the Spring semester. He noted that social distancing will remain critically important to everyone for an extended time, and that we need to be flexible and patient.

So we've made necessary adjustments to our plans.

Wednesday, March 25

- PimaOnline courses resume
- Pima Online's 8-week courses begin.
- Virtual student services will be available.

Monday, March 30

- Virtual instruction begins for previous in-person and hybrid classes that are able to convert.

We know many classes do not lend themselves to virtual learning due to their hands-on nature. We are developing a plan to assure that students in those classes will be able to complete their semester. This is likely to include Summer School. We will share details as soon as we can.

Check your pima.edu emails for information, including messages from your instructors on their plans for your Spring classes. Also check the pima.edu/covid19 webpage. (Collectively, students have opened COVID-19 emails more than 60,000 times. Thanks for staying connected.)

When new-to-virtual-learning classes restart, it will be with technologies that will work well once the inevitable glitches are ironed out. Please be patient. Our creative instructors are preparing learning experiences that will be worth the wait.

Financial aid update

Loan relief: The U.S. Department of Education has announced that all borrowers with federally held student loans will automatically have their interest rates set to 0% for at least 60 days. In addition, each of these borrowers will have the option to suspend their payments for at least two months. This will allow borrowers to temporarily stop their payments without worrying about accruing interest. Please send questions on any Financial Aid topic to FAhelp@pima.edu.

Community resources

Our students are facing diverse challenges. That's why we have compiled a list of community resources to help keep your lives in balance. Please share with your family and friends.

Food security resources

To keep our student volunteers safe, the Desert Vista Campus and West Campus food pantries will not be open. Below are emergency food assistance resources:

- [Free food services for schoolchildren](#)
- [Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona](#) offers food boxes via drive-up service.
- [List of food pantries in Tucson](#)
- [Free to-go meals for children across Tucson](#)
- Safeway and Albertson's: senior-only hours Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7 am to 9 am.

Lower-cost Internet

Please read all the details of these offers

- Cox Communications offers options to new customers. Visit [Connect2Compete](#) to find out more and see if you qualify.
- Comcast offers low-cost internet and potential of free service for 60 days. Visit <https://internetessentials> for more information.

Resources and activities for continued learning

- [Scholastic offering free online services so children can continue to learn](#)
- [Pima County Public Library](#) offers free streaming and book services online with library card
- [Take Virtual Field Trip](#) of 30+ locations to visit worldwide
- Make Way for Books has a free app (phone/tablet) you can download with books and activities for kids
- [Virtual museums and more](#)
- [List of free Learning at Home resources](#)

More resources

- [Pima Council on Aging](#): PCOA's Helpline is 520-790-7262, where you can speak with a member of their staff about how we can assist you.
- [WIC](#): If you have a sudden decrease in employment/income due to this economic challenge, you may be eligible for WIC. Contact your local WIC Clinic.
- [AARP](#) is hosting a weekly live Coronavirus Information Tele-Town Hall on Thursdays at 10am (Arizona Time). Government officials will answer your questions about avoiding coronavirus scams and providing resources for family caregivers. Call toll-free 855-274-9507 to join the live event.
- [Taxes -- United Way](#): This service uses United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona's Valet VITA model along with a way to upload documents through an app from any device with an internet connection, so people can use Valet VITA without coming to a site to have documents scanned. This is one way for taxpayers to have their tax returns completed from the safety of their own homes during the COVID-19 pandemic.

As always, Student Wellness Assistance is available 24/7. In MyPima, go to Students > Student Resources

Thank you for your patience and support. Please continue to take care. Laugh when you can. Springtime in Tucson is beautiful, and getting some fresh air can do wonders.

Sincerely,

Dr. Dolores Durán-Cerda,
Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor