

ASC April 6 Meeting: COVID-19 related decisions and thoughts:

Resolution adopted by Contra Costa College Academic Senate Council on April 6, 2020 for SPRING 2020 Courses.

Whereas, the shelter-in-place order to combat the spread of COVID-19 has made it impossible for students to complete in-person lab hours as initially scheduled this Spring, 2020 semester; and

Whereas, the Contra Costa College Academic Senate Council (CCC ASC) recognizes that not all lab courses can provide adequate education and training for students when delivered in a completely remote format; and

Whereas, the CCC ASC commends the tireless work that all CCC faculty have done in this emergency to convert Spring 2020 courses to a remote format, endorses CCC's faculty's student-centered focus and efforts to ensure students have opportunity to meet their goals, and also champions faculty purview and each faculty member's expertise in their respective discipline; and

Whereas, the CCC ASC considers of utmost importance that course and program completions accurately represent, at minimum, the most essential objectives laid out in the course outlines of record;

Be it resolved that

The CCC ASC recommends that, in consultation with department chairs, and ASC and CIC members as needed, faculty who teach lab/performance/activity courses carefully analyze the course outline of record to determine the essential elements of the laboratory objectives and student learning outcomes for each course to determine if the course can be completed remotely for the Spring 2020 semester, and if it cannot, determine the exact content and in-person student lab time needed for adequate completion of the course; and

The CCC ASC recommends that clear, specific expectations and instructions for completion option(s) be provided to students well in advance of the May 15 withdraw deadline so that students can make the best choice for their educational goals.

The CCC ASC recommends that faculty teaching a lab/performance/activity course determined to be impossible to complete without additional in-person student lab hours continue to provide as much remote content as possible for students wishing to continue the course, prepare a specific plan for student completion of in-person lab hours, and that the

College administration work with and assist faculty in scheduling the necessary class components for a time after the shelter-in-place order has been lifted. (option 1)

The instructor prepares a specific plan for student completion of in-person lab hours during the course offering in a future semester, awards incompletes to those students, and makes plans to accommodate these additional students during future semester lab sessions (option 2)

The CCC ASC supports the decision of a department to immediately cancel a lab course determined to be impossible to complete without additional in-person student lab hours

Principles to follow for preparing a remote-only SUMMER 2020 schedule

The CCC ASC encourages faculty to not sacrifice the integrity of course content and curriculum in their decision-making in constructing the summer schedule.

The CCC ASC relies upon the content expertise of departments in making the best decisions related to the emergency allowance for remote instruction as the summer 2020 schedule is created, and that the judgement of departments should determine which courses can “successfully convert” to a remote format.

All departments should consider the impact on students, both in terms of their timelines for completion/transfer and the competencies gained in summer coursework; and should keep the most vulnerable students at the forefront of their minds when decisions are made

The CCC ASC recognizes that a huge amount of planning and work is expected in order to create a successful remote learning environment for students, and we insist that plans and preparation for faculty training for effective remote instructions during the summer 2020 term begin immediately for the best possible educational experience for students

Decisions can be made class-by-class, and department guidelines for decision-making should be followed.

Fall 2020

The entire semester, as currently scheduled, could NOT be completed successfully online. (common thought is that the only reason we can get through this semester is that 7 weeks of in-person laboratory experience had already occurred). April/May should be spent contemplating sensible adjustments to be made if health authorities require social distancing measures or complete remote instruction.

Plan for eventuality of increased social distancing or remote instruction, initial ideas:

- Schedule labs in person, but lectures remote

- Front-load labs so critical skills addressed as early as possible

- Smaller lab class sizes so that social distancing could be maintained