

USF Response to COVID-19 for International Students March 13, 2020

Overview of USF COVID-19 Policy

On March 12, 2020 USF sent communication to all faculty, staff and students in response to the COVID-19 virus and global developments. The policy is constantly evolving as the global situation and responses evolve. Please visit <https://www.stfrancis.edu/emergency-alerts/> to see the most current USF policy and additional information.

USF Classes

- All classes will resume after Spring Break but will be delivered in online format beginning Monday, March 16, with in-person classes scheduled to resume Monday, April 13.
- ALL of your USF classes will be offered online for now. You will not report to your classrooms on Monday, March 16. Because of the current “crisis” state, this temporary move to online education WILL NOT affect your SEVIS status. This has been confirmed by SEVIS. However, as soon as courses return to face-to-face format, you are expected to return to on-campus courses if you remain in the United States.
- Please contact Angie at amaffeo@stfrancis.edu or Michael at mziadat@stfrancis.edu with any questions.
- Students should contact their professors about any internships, clinical placements, or similar individual face-to-face learning activities.

Online Classes and SEVIS Requirements

The most recent update from The U.S. Department of Homeland Security Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) regarding COVID-19 is from March 9, 2020, when SEVP sent Broadcast Message 2003-01 regarding all F international students. **This policy temporarily allows full online courses for international students during this state of crisis.**

“SEVP-certified schools may need to adapt their procedures and policies to address the significant public health concerns associated with the COVID-19 crisis. To ensure that SEVP is able to continue to meet its oversight responsibilities, attached is a template to be used in reporting COVID-19 procedural adaptations to SEVP. In evaluating these changes, SEVP is focused on ensuring that nonimmigrant students are able to continue to make normal progress in a full course of study as required by federal regulations. SEVP intends to be flexible with temporary adaptations. In all cases, schools and students should document any decisions made and be able provide this information to SEVP upon request. Similarly, changes to workplace requirements may impact nonimmigrant students engaging in practical training. SEVP

encourages such students to consult with their employer to seek alternative ways to maintain employment, such as teleworking or other arrangements.

This guidance applies to students who are currently enrolled in a program of study and is not intended for new or initial students who are outside the United States.”

USF Housing

- The university’s campuses **remain open** to fulfill our mission and maintain continuity. We will continue to work with public health and government agencies to monitor the situation and communicate any updates.
- Campus operations will continue at this time – with employees reporting for work according to their normal work schedules.
- Residence halls continue to be open. Students who wish to continue to live on campus residence halls may remain there.
- **For safety and security reasons, all residential students must inform us of their decision to live in on-campus housing or to reside off campus. Please respond to the online survey, which was texted and emailed to you by mrockafellow@stfrancis.edu, and the link is <https://forms.gle/1eoaSLa6ZNYStb747> by noon on Sunday, March 15. This information ensures that we are aware of who is living on campus to help ensure the safety of all students in case of an emergency.**
- Campus dining services, the counseling center, student health services, and other student services will remain open.
- Students, faculty, and staff who believe they may be ill should contact their health care provider, instructors, department chair, or supervisor.

Transportation/Shuttle

- The Walmart Shuttle will remain in service. The presently scheduled shuttles are on Tuesdays from 6:30-8:30 p.m. and Wednesdays from 7:00-8:30pm. Please contact the IPO if you have any questions about transportation.
- All USF shuttles between the Main Campus, St. Clare Campus, and St. Bonaventure Campus have been canceled until at least April 13, when on-campus courses are scheduled to resume.

Travel

At this time, there is a travel ban in place from several countries to the U.S. We strongly recommend that you do NOT travel at this time. However, if you travel to any of the affected countries (currently including the Schengen Zone of Europe, China, Iran, South Korea, and Japan) and then return to the U.S., you will be required to self-quarantine for 14 days and

monitor your health. This means that you will be unable to have any contact with other students or employees of USF. If you are a student who lives on campus and you are returning from one of these listed countries (even if it is your home country), you must contact Angie (amaffeo@stfrancis.edu), Michael (mziadat@stfrancis.edu), or Ceddi (ccarver@stfrancis.edu) immediately so we can communicate the requirements to you. We will help ensure you are helped during the quarantine process. This list is ever changing, but please contact the International Programs Office if you have any questions about the countries affected by any travel ban. If you plan to leave the U.S., please talk with the International Programs Office when you get your travel signature and let them know about your plans.

If you choose to return to your home country or participate in any sort of travel, please inform the International Programs Office. The Center for Disease Control is currently trying to monitor all mobility between states and different countries for all people, including U.S. Citizens, in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Tutoring & Learning Resources

USF's Academic Resource Center (ARC) will have online tutoring services for Writing which include video/audio features so the session is as authentic and clear as possible. Students can access it on the portal. Please see attachment for information on who is available and when and how to make an online appointment. For additional questions, contact JKourtidis@stfrancis.edu.

Students using Tutor Matching Service to schedule appointments will need to do so 24 hours in advance and make sure that their app is set to the time zone in which they are located. Courses with SI will receive more detailed communication in Canvas from their SI leaders regarding weekly sessions.

Our Library is still open with WiFi availability. See Library hours and more info here: <http://library.stfrancis.edu/>

If you have English language questions, contact ARC for a writing tutoring session. With more urgent English language needs and questions, contact Michael Ziadat in the English Language for Academic Purposes (ELAP) program at 815-740-3441 or mziadat@stfrancis.edu.

Online & Technology Resources

Canvas support for students can be found here if there is a need for additional practice: <https://learnitnow.stfrancis.edu/canvas/canvas/>

The Technology Support Center (TSC) can assist with technological, device, or lab questions or concerns. USF is offering students Microsoft Office 365 for FREE. See TSC info here: <https://techsupport.stfrancis.edu/>. Computer labs are still open as well.

Counseling Services

Counseling services are free of charge and available to registered students if they ever feel emotionally overwhelmed or isolated during this time. There are phone options as well. The on-call crisis counselor can be reached at 815-278-2235. Calls can be made directly to the on-call crisis phone from 8:30 AM-6 PM. From 6 PM-8:30 AM, please contact USF Security at 815-740-3200 or in the Security office to speak with the on-call crisis counselor. If you are experiencing suicidal thoughts or self-harm, please go to your nearest Emergency Department.

For additional support, the following crisis lines are available to you 24/7 365 days per year:

- Joliet Crisis Line: 815-722-3344
- Grundy County Crisis Line: 815-942-6611
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services: 800-662-HELP (4357)
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 800-273-TALK (8255)
- Crisis Textline: Text, "IT'SOK" to 741741

If you are experiencing distress or anxiety surrounding the COVID-19 virus, click on the links below for tools to help take care of your emotional health:

<https://emergency.cdc.gov/coping/selfcare.asp>

<https://www.apa.org/helpcenter/pandemics>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/coping.html>

See the more info and operation hours for the Counseling & Wellness Center here:

<https://www.stfrancis.edu/student-affairs/counseling-wellness-center/>

Ministry, Religious, and Spiritual Services

Our ministry services are still available 24/7 on the 3rd floor of the Motherhouse building where the Chapel is located as well as our Interfaith Reflection Space (for all faiths) right across from that. If you have any questions, contact Jessica Peek at 815-740-2274.

Diversity & Title IX

In the event you experience any degrading or hostile language towards race, ethnicity, place of origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, accent, etc, please contact Allison Heard, Director of Institutional Diversity and Title IX Coordinator at 815-740-5025 or AHeard@stfrancis.edu.

In the event that you experience sexual misconduct which also includes sexual harassment, please contact Allison Heard at 815-740-5025 or AHeard@stfrancis.edu to report the situation. If a person's safety is an immediate concern, contact Campus Safety & Security at 815-740-3200 or law enforcement at 911. Please note that all diversity and Title IX resources remain in place and staff is available in-person, by telephone, or email.

Health Services

Consultation with the campus nurse is free of charge for students and can occur Monday-Thursday between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Nurse practitioners are available some days between 10:00am-2:30pm as well but by appointment. If you have any questions, contact the campus nurse at 815-740-3864.

If you are experiencing a medical emergency, go to your nearest hospital or call 911.

Safety & Security Services

Safety & Security provides a variety of services to the university community. These services include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Foot and vehicle patrol of campus buildings and grounds
- First responders
- Escort services on and near campus upon request
- Investigation into complaints and reports
- Provide directions
- Emergency motorist assistance including jump starts
- Open doors
- Shuttle to train or St. Bonaventure Campus when shuttle bus is not available
- Processing lost and found items
- Emergency notifications
- Alarm monitoring
- Campus Emergency Preparedness

See more services at <https://www.stfrancis.edu/sst/services/> or contact the Security Desk at 815-740-3200 for assistance. For an emergency, call 815-740-3200 or contact law enforcement at 911.

Campus Events

All University-sponsored international travel and non-essential University-sponsored travel has been suspended indefinitely. As such, all off-campus events sponsored by University clubs have also been cancelled.

On-campus gatherings are limited to no more than 25 people until further notice. Any pre-scheduled gatherings of more than 25 people should be canceled or postponed. Please contact the person in charge of your event for more information.

Coffee & Conversation will be postponed for at least two weeks. We will reevaluate the continuation of this program in April, so please look for an announcement in the upcoming weeks.

Athletics

The NAIA has canceled its 2020 Winter championships. While the situation remains fluid, all USF intercollegiate athletic events and practices are suspended until such time as the guidance of the CCAC, the NAIA, and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) will permit their resumption.

USF continues to ask everyone in the university community to follow the CDC recommendations for preventive actions:

- **Stay home if you are sick.** If you are sick, please do not return to campus until you are symptom free for 24 hours.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.

See more info here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/prevention.html>

Stay Informed

- Please refer to the university website for any additional information relating to campus operations in light of COVID-19.
- We will continue to evaluate developments and provide further updates and guidance via campus email and posted online at stfrancis.edu/emergency-alerts.

FAQs

What happens if I travel home and cannot get back into the US?

If you travel outside of the U.S. and cannot return due to travel restrictions, please contact the International Programs Office and we will work with you on alternative learning solutions.

What happens if I am feeling sick?

Please call the Wellness Center immediately if you feel sick. USF has a campus nurse on staff. Please see above for available hours. If you feel sick outside these hours, visit a local quick care facility. Some options are listed below:

Physicians Immediate Care

800 Larkin Ave., Joliet · (815) 741-4300 Hours on website

<https://www.dupagemedicalgroup.com/our-locations/joliet/2100-glenwood-ave/?specialty=598a1feaf836f910c9382a17>

DuPage Medical Group - Immediate Care Center

2100 Glenwood Ave, Joliet · (888) 693-6437 Hours on website

<https://www.dupagemedicalgroup.com/our-locations/joliet/2100-glenwood-ave/>

For any other questions, please contact Angie (amaffeo@stfrancis.edu) or Michael (mziadat@stfrancis.edu) in the International Programs Office.

Be well!