

UPMC Schools of Nursing

The UPMC Schools of Nursing have taken steps to ensure continuation of education during the restrictions imposed in Pennsylvania in response to the COVID 19 pandemic. Our virtual education plan has been designed to meet all clinical and classroom student learning outcomes. This plan has been approved by the Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing and the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN).

WINS:

At UPMC, we like to begin with our WINS. Here are a few that we would like to share:

- We are continuing to recruit and admit students for the Fall semester.
- Our faculty and students have successfully transitioned to the virtual education environment.
- Student retention from the Spring semester demonstrated improvement from prior semesters.
- We hosted two successful virtual graduation ceremonies: one for UPMC Shadyside School of Nursing and one for UPMC Jameson School of Nursing.
- We have successfully enacted a process for virtual TEAS (admission testing) for prospective students.
- We have adopted a remote testing product allowing for delivery of examinations at home.
- Our students are safe and able to continue their education at home!!

CURRENT PROCESSES:

Classroom Teaching: The UPMC Schools of Nursing have continued the delivery of theory using the Microsoft Teams platform. This platform allows faculty to engage with students using both chat and audio features. At least two faculty are present during lecture and classroom activities to ensure student questions and concerns are addressed immediately. Lecture materials are

available to students in the electronic learning management system and are shared on the screen during the lecture presentation.

Clinical Teaching: The UPMC Schools of Nursing have worked to simulate experiences that mirror the on-site clinical day with client care. We have maximized the use of existing electronic resources and have purchased additional resources to enhance clinical education. Faculty have worked closely with leadership to develop a clinical experience in which the students have an opportunity to engage with the clinical faculty and one another. Faculty are present with their clinical groups via the Microsoft Teams platform to engage in pre and post-conference discussions of the daily assignments. Faculty are also available throughout the clinical day and have additional check-in points with students to field questions or concerns. Activities for the virtual clinical environment have been mapped closely to the classroom learning concepts and exemplars. These include case studies, unfolding case studies, virtual medication administration practice, development of plans of care, and concept mapping.

Student Town Hall Meetings: Town Hall meetings have been held with the students, faculty and leadership to address concerns, provide updates, and answer questions

FUTURE PROCESSES:

The UPMC Schools of Nursing look forward to the opportunity to welcome students back to on-site classroom and clinical settings. We are working to align our processes with the Governor's orders, UPMC, and requirements of the Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing, the Department of Education, and the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN). Our processes are being designed to ensure safety of our students, faculty and staff, and our patients. Our plans are in development to include:

- hybrid delivery of classroom teaching;
- clinical teaching experience that blend on-site and virtual experiences.
- smaller clinical group sizes to maximize learning opportunities in the clinical environment;

- development of processes for maintaining a clean learning environment; and
- continued use of remote learning resources.