



HLC Accreditation 2020-2021

## Evidence Document

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Academic Affairs

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**A message to Shocker students, faculty and staff**

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**Additional information:**



## WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY COVID-19 UPDATE

### **A message to Shocker students, faculty and staff**

As we head into the Thanksgiving holiday, we wanted to take a moment to extend our heartfelt thanks to every member of the campus community. This has been a difficult year to say the least, and we thank each one of you for your flexibility, patience, resilience and grace as we continue to face these challenges together.

At this point, Wichita State is operating under a fully remote/online instructional model through Feb. 1. The decision to go remote/online through the end of January was made to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

We understand that this semester has been unlike any other and that has created challenges for all of us. We have extended the withdrawal deadline to Dec. 3. Students should [contact their advisor](#) to discuss this option, and [read here how to withdraw](#).

As you travel and gather with loved ones, here are some safety tips we encourage everyone to remember:

#### **Before you travel:**

- Reduce contact with others before you travel to decrease the likelihood that you'll share COVID-19 with your family.
- Double check your destination's quarantine requirements.
- Get a flu shot – it's just one more way to protect yourself and those around you.

#### **When you travel and are with your family:**

- Don't travel if you're sick or have been exposed to COVID-19.
- Stop as little as possible, and take your own snacks.
- Always wear a face covering and stay six feet from others.
  
- Avoid physical contact including hugging, kissing and shaking hands.
- Bring hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes.

### **When you return home:**

- Quarantine for 14 days, especially if you have vulnerable family or friends.
- Wear a face covering and stay six feet from others. We know this may sound extreme but consider wearing a mask anytime you are around people who do not or have not been living with you.
- Stay home and avoid crowds and gatherings.
- Contact your health care provider at home if you develop COVID-19 symptoms.
- Reach out for help from a mental health provider if you are feeling sad, anxious or hopeless.

It's hard to conceive of celebrating the holidays without our typical traditions. Yet any small safety steps we take will pay dividends in the future as we try to get back to what we remember as "normal."

Students, we also encourage you to start thinking ahead to the regular spring semester. If you were enrolled this semester, the format will look familiar to you. But because a pandemic is a fluid situation, please stay flexible in case we are required to adjust course delivery due to federal, state or county public health mandates.

All updates will be communicated to students, faculty and staff through your WSU email, the [COVID-19 website](#) and WSU's official social media accounts.

Have a safe and happy holiday!

**Shirley Lefever**, interim provost

**Teri Hall**, vice president, Student Affairs