

MUSC College of Nursing: Novel COVID-19 Related FAQs

Updates on Spring 2021 Convocation or Commencement:

The College of Nursing is thrilled to be able to return to an in-person Convocation event this spring. As always, CON seeks to model best practices for our community and will continue to host ceremonies that mitigate risk of exposure for our graduates, their families, and our faculty and staff. For this reason, CON will host a Convocation ceremony for undergraduate students at 12:30 pm and that will be followed by a separate ceremony for graduate students, beginning at 4:00 pm. Details for both ceremonies, including arrival times, location, seating arrangements and allotted guests has already been distributed via email to all graduates. At this time, our RSVP deadline has passed, and we are unable to accommodate additional requests. There will be live streaming at both events, for those unable to attend.

An in-person MUSC Commencement is scheduled for May 15th, 2021. The University will be hosting two ceremonies and the College of Nursing will participate in the 1:00 pm ceremony, along with the College of Medicine and College of Graduate Studies. Additional details can be found on the Commencement [website](#). **We look forward to celebrating these ceremonies with all students who responded their intent to participate in convocation as well as commencement. *Let's not have any empty seats for the College of Nursing section during commencement.***

Congratulations to all our May 2021 Graduates!

Any graduate who has additional questions about Convocation or Commencement should contact Student Services at conservices@musc.edu.

What directives have been issued for students in response to the public health concerns associated with COVID-19?

MUSC continues to monitor CDC guidelines and evolving scientific evidence and updates its COVID related mandates with the aim of providing a safe environment while on campus and in buildings.

The University directives can be found [here](#) and apply to all MUSC students, faculty, and staff. Please remember that failure to follow these COVID-19 public health directives may be deemed a violation of the [Professionalism and Standards of Conduct for Students Policy](#). Alleged violations will be reviewed and may result in supportive and/or disciplinary action at the program-level. Responsive action may involve support intervention, mandatory leave of absence, monitoring, and/or disciplinary action up to dismissal. It is YOUR responsibility to monitor your email and updates on the MUSC COVID-19 portal.

As of May 5, 2021, updated directives have been posted and address modifications in mask requirements (in and out of doors), domestic and international travel, social distancing, and visitors on campus. Students are expected to also review the most current communication relative to these updates, distributed through Student Broadcasts, from Dr. Gigi Smith, Associate Provost for Education Innovation & Student Life, as current precautions while on campus have been updated.

Is the COVID-19 vaccine currently available for MUSC students?

Yes, COVID-19 vaccines are readily available to all students at MUSC Hospital and its affiliate sites; vaccines are also widely available in local community pharmacies. Per SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), vaccines are safe, effective, and free to anyone 16 years of age and older. **We encourage all MUSC CON students to become vaccinated against COVID-19.**

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All MUSC Care Team Members, which includes students and faculty with MUSC clinical rotations, will be required to be vaccinated against COVID-19, effective July 1, 2021 for students. The most up-to-date information regarding the vaccine at MUSC can be found [here](#). Login with your NetID and password is required to access the information and register for the vaccination. Register to receive the vaccine by clicking on "[COVID-19 Vaccine Scheduling Information](#)."

CON students, who as part of their program of study are in clinical settings out of state, or outside the Charleston area, are encouraged to follow the vaccine recommendations of your clinical/healthcare system setting. Please be sure to read the communications from the Provost's Office and the CON which highlights the importance of the vaccine, as well as its safety and effectiveness. Your fellow students created this [#backthevax video](#) and we encourage you to check it out!

What if I have already been vaccinated?

Individuals are considered fully vaccinated if it is two weeks after the second dose in a two-dose series (Pfizer or Moderna) or if it is two weeks after receiving a single-dose vaccine (Johnson and Johnson/Janssen).

According to the updated University Directives, regardless, of vaccination status, masks are required within any public indoor setting. Public indoor settings include building entrances, hallways, cafeterias, elevators, and waiting rooms. In situations where 90% or more of the individuals in an indoor, private setting are known to be vaccinated, individuals may choose to remove their masks. Private settings include offices and conference rooms. Social distancing of at least 3-feet is recommended while indoors. All individuals may continue to wear a mask if they wish to do so. Masks should also be worn for large indoor gatherings, regardless of the percentage fully vaccinated. While, masks are no longer required outdoors, the University recommends you keep a 3-foot distance between yourself and others.

Have CON classes been cancelled?

No, students will continue to take classes, tests, and engage in all other required assignments online. With the exception of the on-campus ABSN program transitioning online for didactic coursework, there has been little impact to our CON programs and courses.

How are clinical rotations being handled?

ABSN students resumed on-campus simulation, skills labs and in-person clinical education on June 1, 2020. Spring and summer 2021 clinical experiences will continue to be a combination of virtual simulation, in-person simulation, and clinically based direct patient care.

MSN and DNP students resumed in-person clinical during the summer 2020 semester.

Students should continue to follow the self-monitoring guidelines per their clinical site and report any high-risk COVID exposures or COVID positives tests to Assistant Dean for Students, Mrs. Carolyn Page, at pagecf@muscf.edu.

Have there been any adjustments to tuition and fees?

Tuition and fees will remain the same for all students at this time. Although online programs are typically more expensive, there will be no increase in tuition/fees for on-campus programs, like CON's ABSN program, that were transitioned to being online in response to the COVID-19 pandemic at that time.

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Is there a projected date for students to return to campus?

ABSN students returned to campus for simulation, skills lab, and direct patient care experiences, in small groups, on June 1, 2020. At this time, didactic coursework will continue online through Summer 2021 in order to provide best practices for social distancing based on class sizes. Updates will be provided as directives continue to change. We are developing plans for Fall 2021 at this time.

Graduate student programs' scheduled orientation and learning intensive activities will continue to be offered virtually, through our online platforms, for summer 2021. Learning intensives for both the DNP and PhD programs will be continuously evaluated for upcoming semesters and we are hopeful that we may be able to return to in-person activities soon.

The College will continue to follow the MUSC University COVID-19 guidelines for on-campus and classroom large group gatherings and social distancing.

Are students in the College of Nursing programs still on track to graduate on time?

College of Nursing priorities continue to be focused on the health and safety of its faculty, students, and staff and that is in concert with on-time graduation of our students. At this time, our efforts include being strategic and innovative in providing learning experiences that support your on-time graduation. At this time, all academic programs project on-time graduation.

Is grant funding for NFLP, ANEW and BHWET continuing?

Yes, there are no expected interruptions to grant funding for this academic year. Students scheduled to receive grant-associated funds or stipends should receive payments on time.

For University updates on Coronavirus (COVID-19), please visit this [website](#).

For MUSC Research related updates, please visit this [website](#).