March 16, 2020

To: NMSU System Students  
From: Carol Parker, Provost  
Cc: NMSU System Faculty and Staff  
Re: Maintaining Academic Progress, Spring 2020

Preserving the health and safety of NMSU students, faculty, and staff are our top priorities as we work through the world-wide COVID-19 outbreak. In an effort to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus, on Friday NMSU announced that students are taking a two-week spring break beginning today. When classes resume on March 30, many will use an online format, and below are items you need to know about the rest of the semester. **Now more than ever, it is critical that you stay in touch with your professors with any questions you might have.** Please also monitor your email.

NMSU remains open and safe: students can stay in their dorms; dining halls will be open; Health Center and other services will be available during the extended spring break. Although classes are not meeting for the next two weeks, all campuses are open and ready to assist you with resources. A campus information line has been established to answer questions (575-646-7373) and the NMSU COVID-19 website is regularly being updated.

**Courses:** For students, the two-week spring break will function like a regular spring break. It gives you time to rest and catch up. For some it is also an opportunity to get ahead. However, this does not prevent you from turning in projects early if they are ready. To ensure that you continue to make progress toward your degree, over the next two weeks faculty will move face-to-face classes to an online format for the remainder of the spring semester. **Your professors will update you on adjustments to course schedules and assignment deadlines.**

- Classes where online instruction is not feasible, such as labs and Career–Technical Courses (CTE), will resume on March 30, but under protocols enhanced to lessen virus transmission. This includes increased disinfection between classes and reduced section sizes to allow a distance of 6 feet between students (social distancing). Deans and faculty will give you more information regarding these courses next week.
- Clinical placements in some cases have been paused during the two-week spring break. Following the break, NMSU educators will work with clinical supervisors to determine whether it is necessary to suspend a clinical placement. As of now, we envision students will continue clinical hours in accordance with any placement restrictions.
• ICT is keeping computer labs open to support student learning, with additional cleaning to lessen virus transmission.
• If you are a graduate student with an upcoming defense, it will continue, in some cases via technology such as Zoom. Work with your graduate advisor, and more details will be available by Wednesday from the Graduate School.
• If you feel sick, please stay home.

Deadline changes

• The last day to drop a class for the full semester has been extended until April 2. As usual, please speak with your professor and academic advisor before dropping a class.
• Mini-semester 2 will begin on March 30.
• The semester will not be extended. Exam week remains the week of May 11.
• At this point, no changes have been made to graduation ceremonies; however, this could change.

Work schedules: Student employees, including graduate and teaching assistants, should consult with their supervisor about work scheduled.

These are unprecedented times. Working together and supporting each other, we will get through this pandemic. We are all part of Aggie Nation!