

Message to Science, Math, & Engineering Students Concerning Fall Scheduling and Division Reopening Plans

14 September 2020

Dear Science, Mathematics, and Engineering student:

I hope that this note finds you in good health and accomplishing your own personal and educational goals under these challenging times. I wanted to update you on our plans in the newly organized Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Division as we move towards fall. In response to state, county, and college rules governing meetings during Covid-19, I wanted to clarify for you what may be difficult for you to ascertain remotely about our Division plans. There are 4 scenarios for instruction on campus this fall, all of which may include so-called “hybrid” options, which generally require substantial independent work that is not scheduled instructional time, on the course Learning Management System page (LMS, usually Moodle), or other material provided by the instructors. I also wish to note that faculty are not on contract at the present time. Although you can email them, they may not see the email until they are back at work on or just before 30 September, the first day of classes (Wednesday of week 1!). There are four scheduled course scenarios:

1) Class is listed as MEET/VIRTUAL

Explanation: Times are listed, meaning at least part of the class will be live or “synchronous” during the posted times.

2) Class is listed as NOTIME/NOROOM

Explanation: No time or location is listed; instructor will provide all instructions directly to students via their communication and LMS. Not the same as online – the course was structured as a forced change given the moratorium on most F2F instruction; this is also called “asynchronous” instruction, with no scheduled times. There still would be deadlines for assignments and fixed dates for assessments, of course. Courses are not correspondence or self-paced, and there are typically fixed deadlines for assignments.

3) Class is listed with no times and has a “O” or Online coding

Explanation: This course was built intentionally as an online course prior to Covid-19, or was modified intentionally to move to an online format. This class is likely to remain with an online option once we return to normalcy. Many classes are offered in multiple formats and in-seat instruction will be broadly available as soon as it is safe for students and employees.

4) Class is listed with times and room – F2F

Explanation: This course has either been approved or is submitting a plan for very limited and responsible face-to-face instruction, typically for labs, clinical situations, or hands-on work. Science will have very limited openings restricted (so far) to some chemistry labs.

Science Division – Fall Reopening Plan

Our fall reopening plan contemplates only two courses having F2F instruction – the lab sections of General and Organic Chemistry (CH 221 and CH 241). Lectures are handled according to information above. The times posted are subject to a possible change as Covid-19 conditions in the local area change, and all students registered for these classes will be sent further information well before the start of term. Some students involved directly in course-based undergraduate research will be able to access campus resources by permission, if requested by the instructor and approved by the dean.

Different academic divisions may have different reopening plans, and winter is likely to look much like fall. Our faculty and staff are working extremely hard to keep everyone safe, and our Division is committed to provide the best engineering, mathematics, and science class experiences that we can. Science programs have reduced course fees (beginning Spring 2020) by an average of over 50%, and in some courses, have eliminated them altogether. Some materials require sustained maintenance, and so some fees continue, but want to assure you that only the necessary expenses are being covered by these fees. We will continue to reexamine these fees, which sometimes to go cover costs of new programs and materials that have to be required to support continuation of these courses. We are also continuing to add sections to meet increased demand, driven by your enrollments and wait list requests.

For those of you who have been off or out of school for a while, we welcome you back! We look forward to fall term with some trepidation of course, but most of all, we want to wish you all success and wellness. You can stay updated on Campus Covid-19 situations and reopening plans for all academic units at the following web sites. As soon as our reopening plan is finalized, we will also have an updated web page describing that, for any courses which build face-to-face labs, and your instructors will also provide you with information. Given the hazardous air quality, and fire-impacted communities across the state, I want to acknowledge that these times are causing additional hardship to many of you and others. Please take care of your own safety, and if you have difficulties associated with returning to campus, please communicate with your instructors, advisor, and any other student support services that may be able to help you. It is most important that you stay in touch with your LCC email and sign up for text alerts if you have not already done so! We hope to see you back soon, safe and healthy! Thank you very much!

Some resources:

- Campus Covid-19 update: <https://www.lanecc.edu/covid19>
- Campus Approved Reopenings: <https://www.lanecc.edu/covid19/plans-reopening-safely>
- Lane Alert sign-up and updates: <https://www.lanecc.edu/safelane/lane-alert>
- Main campus WWW: <https://www.lanecc.edu> – including online update sessions
- Nation Fire Situational Awareness Tool – [centered on Oregon](#)

Sincerely, Paul Ruscher, PhD, Dean, [Science](#), [Mathematics](#), and [Engineering](#) Division

Further inquiries related to our courses or division information may be directed to scienceoffice@lanecc.edu, which is generally monitored weekdays 8-5.