



## C-19-RELATED STUDENT FAQ

As of August 1, 2020

### COMING BACK TO CAMPUSES

#### 1. Is there a “hotline” for answering questions related to USCB’s COVID-19 response?

Yes. Questions will be addressed: [usbcovid19@uscb.edu](mailto:usbcovid19@uscb.edu) or (843) 208-8099.

#### 2. How has USCB’s Fall 2020 calendar been revised?

USCB will resume face-to-face instruction on its three campuses for Fall 2020. Because your well-being remains our priority, the fall semester calendar has been revised, running straight through with no Fall Break. Face-to-face classes will begin Wednesday, August 20 and conclude Wednesday, November 24. After Thanksgiving Break (November 25-29), classes will shift from in-person instruction to remote instruction. Students, who wish to remain in University Housing after Thanksgiving break, will be required to complete an Intention to Remain in Housing Form, which will be available in October. If you do not complete an Intention to Remain in Housing Form, you will not be able to return to University Housing until Move-In Day in January 2021.

#### Fall 2020 Semester Calendar:

- August 20: Classes begin
- September 7 (Labor Day): No classes
- October 15-16: Fall Break is cancelled; Normal class schedules will be followed
- November 3 (Election Day): Remote classes will be held
- November 24: Face-to-face classes end
- November 25-29: Thanksgiving Break
- November 30-December 2: Remote classes will be held
- December 3-4: Remote reading days
- December 7-14: Remote final exam period

#### 3. When is move-in day for USCB residential students and how is move-in being conducted to minimize the risk of contagion?

##### BLUFFTON CAMPUS

Principal move-in days are Saturday, August 15 and Sunday, August 16. Your assigned time slot is based on which suite bedroom (A, B, C, or D) you will occupy (see times below). Students, who cannot move in over the weekend or who want/need to move in with less traffic, will move in Monday, August 17 through Wednesday, August 19. Students moving in August 15 and 16 will use a drive-thru check-in line to receive keys and important information. Those moving in August 17, 18, and 19 will check-in at a table outside Campus Center.

**Masks are required to enter residence halls, and students are limited to two guests to assist with moving in. These rules will be strictly enforced.** Unlike prior years, no volunteers will be present to assist with move-in. Further, students will be screened for COVID-19 symptoms on move-in day, and we will have onsite testing for those who indicate that they may be symptomatic or that they have been in contact with someone who is symptomatic and/or positive. For questions about housing, call 843-208-8722 or email [housing@uscb.edu](mailto:housing@uscb.edu).

Schedule is as follows:

- **Saturday, August 15: Freshmen & New Transfer Students**  
 Bedroom A: 8:00am – 10:00am  
 Bedroom C: 10:30am – 12:30pm  
 Bedroom B: 1:00pm – 3:00pm  
 Bedroom D: 3:30pm – 5:30pm
- **Sunday, August 16: All Returning Students**  
 Bedroom A: 8:00am – 10:00am  
 Bedroom C: 10:30am – 12:30pm  
 Bedroom B: 1:00pm – 3:00pm  
 Bedroom D: 3:30pm – 5:30pm
- **Monday, August 17; Tuesday, August 18; and Wednesday, August 19**  
 All Check-In: 9:00am – 3:00pm

### BEAUFORT CAMPUS

Principle move-in day is Sunday, August 16. Your time slot is based on your building (Honors A, B, or C) assignment (see below). On arrival, students will check-in at a central table on the lawn. Students, who cannot move in over the weekend or who want/need to move in with less traffic, will move in will move in Monday, August 17 through Wednesday, August 19. Check-in for these days will be at the Sandstone Building, Room 118.

**Masks are required to enter residence halls, and students are limited to two guests to assist with moving in. These rules will be strictly enforced.** Unlike prior years, no volunteers will be present to assist with move-in. Further, students will be screened for COVID-19 symptoms on move-in day, and we will have onsite testing for those who indicate that they may be symptomatic or that they have been in contact with someone who is symptomatic and/or positive. For questions about housing, call 843-208-8722 or email [housing@uscb.edu](mailto:housing@uscb.edu).

- **Sunday, August 16: All Students**  
 Honors A: 8:00am – 9:30am  
 Honors B: 9:40am – 11:20am  
 Honors C: 11:30am – 12:00pm and 1:00pm – 2:20pm  
 Late Arrivals: 2:30pm – 5:00pm
- **Monday, August 17; Tuesday, August 18; and Wednesday, August 19**  
 All Check-In: 9:00am – 3:00pm

#### 4. How will new students receive their student ID cards?

New students must upload a photo to the CarolinaCard system. Students must present a valid driver's license or passport to receive their student ID. Students should check their USCB email for complete instructions.

#### 5. When do commuter students return to campus?

Commuter students will begin returning to campus on the first day of classes, which is Thursday, August 20. If a class is divided into sections (to accommodate physical distancing in the classroom), faculty may communicate with students prior to the first day to clarify who will attend which section of a class.

#### 6. Do students need to complete an online COVID-19 informational training and health forms before they come on campus?

All students are required to complete the “**Beaufort COVID19 Health for Students,**” which may be accessed via [Blackboard](#) (under your courses tab). Additional trainings:

- [Handwashing](#)
- [Stop the Spread of Germs](#)
- [Face Coverings](#)

Further, all students must complete forms for [Move-In Health Screening](#) (within 48 hours of arriving to campus) and [My Personal Health Plan](#). Both will be sent to your student email.

#### **7. Will the growing number of cases in SC alter the USCB’s current reopening plans?**

While USCB’s administration continues to monitor the dynamics of the pandemic, and, while we have developed several viable plans (A, B, and C) in the event we need to alter university operations, we have no plans to make changes at this time. We are committed to the well-being of our communities and to our plans for face-to-face instruction and campus life as previously announced by the chancellor.

#### **8. What will happen if we have to evacuate for a hurricane?**

In the event of a serious storm threat that requires evacuation, residential students who cannot return home will be transported to USC Aiken as they have been in prior years. USCA is prepared to follow our risk mitigation protocols while accommodating USCB students. Therefore, residential students will follow the same screening protocols that were followed during initial move-in. Additionally, we have an agreement with Beaufort Memorial Hospital to accommodate quarantined/isolated students, who will not travel to Aiken.

#### **9. Once I go home for Thanksgiving, will I come back for spring semester? Will I be allowed to live in the residence halls?**

Students will return home for the Thanksgiving holiday and finish the fall semester online. Students will return to campuses and to the residence halls in January for the spring semester.

## **HEALTH & SAFETY**

#### **10. Will students, faculty, and staff be tested for COVID-19 when they return to campuses?**

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) [does not recommend testing](#) all students, faculty, and staff upon return to campuses. The reasoning is that antibody tests continue to be unreliable, and viral tests are a snapshot in time but provide no indication or assurance for whether an individual will test positive or negative at any other point in time. Thus, USCB will not engage in mass testing; however, the university has entered a partnership with Beaufort Memorial Hospital (BMH) in order to provide access to testing for any individual – student, faculty, or staff – who wants to be tested. Testing is free of charge (but subject to change based on federal and state funding for testing supplies and personnel).

Students will be screened for symptoms on move-in day, and we will have onsite testing for those who indicate that they may be symptomatic or that they have been in contact with someone who is symptomatic and/or positive.

#### **11. Will any health services be available on campus?**

Beaufort Memorial Hospital (BMH) will run flu vaccination clinics on the Beaufort and Bluffton campuses in early fall and will provide ongoing telehealth services via an app and a kiosk on the Bluffton campus, Library #227. Students are encouraged to download the [BMH Care Anywhere](#) app. These services are available to all USCB students and employees. Telehealth provides a virtual visit with a healthcare provider. Students who require further care will be referred to a local BMH healthcare provider or advised to seek hospitalization if the health concern is

potentially serious. We have access to Registered Nurse staff and a medical director to support campus health operations and collaborate with SCDHEC on COVID-19 cases.

## 12. Will USCB engage in contact tracing to mitigate the spread of COVID-19?

SCDHEC is responsible for the process of contact tracing. USCB's [Public Health Response Team](#) has completed contact-tracing training through the Johns Hopkins University and will support SCDHEC to implement contact tracing and additive practices, e.g. verification of student class attendance, seating charts, student ID swipes, and portable swipes at student events.

## 13. What are the “new normal” expectations for on-campus behavior?

Social distancing and personal hygiene are important safeguards. Students must:

- Maintain a distance of six feet from others
- Avoid close contact with others
- Wear cloth face coverings indoors and whenever it is not possible to maintain six feet of separation
- Wash/sanitize hands frequently
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or elbow
- Avoid contact with frequently-touched surfaces
- Clean personal study and recreational spaces routinely
- Clean shared study and recreational spaces after use
- Respect the personal space of others

## 14. Am I required to monitor my symptoms?

Yes. Using the [CDC's Self-Checker](#), students are required to self-monitor daily for the following symptoms:

- Fever Greater Than 100.4°F
- Cough
- Shortness of Breath or Difficulty Breathing
- Sore Throat
- Muscle or Body Aches
- Headache
- Chills or Shaking
- New Loss of Sense of Smell and/or Taste
- Congestion or Runny Nose
- Nausea or Vomiting (more common in children)
- Diarrhea (more common in children).

## 15. What do I do if I get sick or believe that I might be sick?

Most importantly, students, who are sick or who may be sick, should stay at home (whether residence halls or off-campus housing) and should be tested. SCDHEC recommends that people, who have been infected with COVID-19, remain in isolation until: a) at least 10 days have passed since their symptoms began, b) they have no fever (body temperature of 100.4°F or less using an oral thermometer) for 3 days without the use of fever-reducing medicines, and c) their symptoms are improving. Some people may require more than ten (10) days to feel better.

Students who live in the residence halls are required – by the recently-updated USCB housing contract – to follow all public health guidelines, including those related to quarantine and isolation. In the event that students require quarantine or isolation, USCB's standard protocol is for students to return to their primary residences. If they are unable to return home, the university will provide alternate housing on-campus for the duration of their quarantine

or isolation. During this period, the [Public Health Response Team](#) will work with housing, dining, and others to ensure that the student is supported.

Every student, who lives in USCB's residence halls, must complete forms for [Move-In Health Screening](#) (within 48 hours of arriving to campus) and [My Personal Health Plan](#), which the Housing Office will keep on file. The plan is a record of each student's preferred plans in the event that quarantine or isolation is necessary. Further, all quarantined or isolated students (whether at home or on campus), including commuters, should submit the [COVID-19 Student Report Form](#), so that USCB personnel may assist with faculty notifications and any other needed academic accommodations.

#### **16. What about stress and anxiety?**

The COVID-19 pandemic has created challenges for each of us. [Counseling Services](#) will continue to support students and will offer new virtual walk-in appointments, workshops, and other opportunities to help students cope with the stressors caused by COVID-19.

#### **17. Do I have to wear a face mask/cloth face covering on campuses?**

Yes. Every USCB student will be provided a personal health kit, which will include two reusable face masks, pocket hand sanitizer, and a germ key. Face masks/cloth face coverings are required to be worn by all students (and all USCB employees) on all campuses when in the presence of others and in all settings where six-foot social distancing is difficult to maintain. Face masks/cloth face coverings are not required while alone in private rooms in residence halls or enclosed offices.

[Appropriate use of face masks/cloth face coverings](#) is critical to minimizing risks to those around you. You can spread COVID-19 to others even if you do not feel sick. Face masks/cloth face coverings mask [must cover the nose and mouth to be effective](#). Home-made or commercially manufactured face masks/cloth face coverings help contain a wearer's respiratory emissions. It is recommended face coverings are made primarily of cotton and double-layered.

Reusable face masks/cloth face coverings must be [properly laundered](#) after each day's use. After one day's use, they must be laundered before another day's use. Having a week's supply of face masks/cloth face coverings can help reduce the need for daily laundering.

Various spaces on campuses, e.g., classrooms, dining and recreational facilities, libraries, and the bookstore, are reconfigured to support six-foot social distancing. Further, plexiglass, face shields, and social-distancing signage and decals will be utilized to promote safe practices.

Supplies will be provided for cleaning of shared spaces throughout the day. Before you leave a classroom, shared study space, shared dining space, or shared recreation/activity space, you are required to wipe down all surfaces to ensure the health and well-being of other community members.

#### **18. What happens if I do not want to wear a face mask?**

Unmasked and/or disruptive and/or non-complying students possibly infringe on the health and well-being of the entire university community. If you are not wearing a face mask in shared spaces, like classrooms, libraries, dining facilities, etc., you will be asked to leave, and an online referral indicating your failed compliance with USCB's [Communicable Disease Outbreak-Mitigation Measures](#) can follow. The next step is Judicial review.

#### **19. Do students have to provide their own masks?**

Every USCB student will receive a health kit containing two reusable face masks, hand sanitizer, and a germ key. Residential students will get kits on move-in day. Commuter students will receive kits during Sand Shark Welcome Week.

#### **20. How have standard cleaning protocols for campus facilities been enhanced as a result of COVID-19?**

Informed by SCDHEC, our Facilities team has adjusted cleaning standards and schedules to appropriately address risks associated with the spread of COVID-19.

Classrooms and all shared spaces (e.g., dining rooms, recreation spaces, libraries, etc.) will be cleaned and disinfected every evening. Facilities and Dining staff will clean high-touch surfaces, e.g., door handles, railings, and elevator buttons, multiple times each workday. Facilities across our campuses will be equipped with hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes for students and faculty to wipe down workspaces, desks, and other shared surfaces and areas between uses. It is important to note that the risk of COVID-19 transmission from surfaces is minor, so the provision of these supplies and their use are additional precautions.

To avoid use of air dryers, restrooms will be provided with paper towel dispensers that will be restocked daily. Further, there will signage to call if a restroom (or any other space) needs attention.

Facilities is exploring air quality in buildings, including air exchange rates as well as air filters enabled to filter out smaller particles. It is important to note that no cases of COVID-19 have been linked to air handling systems.

### **21. What changes have been made in the residence halls to minimize the risk of contagion and spread?**

Following recommendations and guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), we have implemented the following:

- All apartments and common areas were deep cleaned/disinfected over the summer then sealed (no one entering until Fall);
- All bedrooms are now single occupancy (no doubles);
- No more than six (6) people are allowed to be in any apartment at one time;
- Overnight guests must be registered with the Housing office 24 hours prior to arrival;
- Students are required to follow hygiene and cleaning protocols for the well-being of the entire Sand Shark community;
- Quarantine and isolation rooms have been reserved in the residence halls. However, in the event that students require quarantine or isolation, USCB's standard protocol is for students to return to their primary residences.

### **22. What protocols and modifications will be followed in the dining hall?**

Every associate in any dining facility will be screened daily for symptoms of COVID-19. Further, all are required to wear face masks at all times and gloves when handling food. Plexi health shield barriers have been installed at registers and points of service. Dine-in seating is limited to 45 people (with signage to indicate where students may sit for physical distancing), and diners must sanitize their hands before entering the cafeteria and must wear masks except when actually seated and eating.

### **23. What protocols and modifications will be followed in the bookstore?**

Because of the bookstore's small foot print, the textbook section of the bookstore will be off limits. Students can avoid long lines and long waits by ordering course materials early through the [website](#). The quickest and safest way to receive your course materials is to choose "shipping" or "store pick up" at checkout. Your materials will be safely boxed and shipped to you or be available for a quick store pick-up. To receive updates "like" Facebook page [@SharksCoveBookstore](#)

### **24. What impact will COVID-19 have on athletics?**

In consultation with The Sun Conference and our Council of Presidents, USCB has committed to participating in practice and competition this Fall season. While the safety of our student-athletes, staff members and fans remains a top priority, we also recognize the importance of providing our student-athletes the opportunity to participate in the sport they love. Following NAIA guidelines, we will be delaying our Fall start dates, limiting travel rosters,

limiting competition dates, and instituting testing mandates. In addition, we will be following rigorous cleaning processes, checkpoint procedures, and stressing mitigating practices.

### **25. How will travel for games be handled?**

Following conference and university procedure, travel to away games will be strictly monitored. All away travel will be limited as much as possible. When travel is necessary, student-athletes temperature will be monitored before, during and after the trip, bus seating will be limited and grouped, as much as possible, by campus housing groupings, masks will be required at all times when not in practice or competition. As when at home, mitigating practices will be stressed and expected. Our athletic training staff and athletic administration have been in communication regarding safety practices and protocols with our away opponents.

### **26. Will parents, other family, friends, and fans be allowed to come to Sand Shark athletic events this year?**

Yes. However, in light of the current situation, certain protocols will be in place for our fans and spectators at our home events this Fall. Some such measures will include: face masks required by all fans and spectators, no use of permanent seating permitted, no restroom facilities will be open to the public at the soccer venue, concessions will not be provided, interaction with players will not be permitted. With these restrictions in mind, and cognizant of the trials our community has been facing these past several weeks and months, USCB Athletics has decided to NOT charge admission this Fall to any home athletic event.

### **27. What protocols will be in place at the Rec Center?**

To open safely, the Rec Center will utilize modified hours, limited capacities, strict cleaning procedures, and physical distancing measures.

#### Capacity Limits

- Fitness Center: no more than 10 patrons
- Group fitness studio: 2 patrons with 10x10 squares marked
- Basketball court 1: individual workout areas and for basketball shootaround purposes, 1 per goal.
- Individual workout squares marked.
- Court 2: 17 patrons
- Showers/Locker-room: 1 at a time

#### Cleaning Procedures

- A deep clean will be completed prior to opening and at closing.
- The fitness center and basketball courts will shut down every 2 hours for a deep clean.
- Bathrooms (sinks, faucets, restroom door handles, toilet handles, toilet seats) will be cleaned every hour.
- Staff will follow a strict and specific cleaning schedule.
- Disinfectant wipes, spray, and hand sanitizer will be placed abundantly throughout the facility.
- Pre-use and post-use wipe down protocol on all equipment.
- Staff and patrons will be held accountable for strict cleaning standards; must be a shared responsibility with the patrons and employees.

#### Patron Health Protocols

- Face coverings are required in the lobby for check-in and in all non-workout areas.
- To check-in, patrons will complete a brief health questionnaire and have their temperature taken. Patrons that do not pass the health questionnaire or present with a reading above 100.4 will not be allowed to enter the facility that day.
- Upon entering fitness center and/or gym, patrons will be asked to present their Sand Shark ID to the front desk staff and then the patron will swipe their university ID through the scanner.

- Patrons are strongly encouraged to wear face coverings while working out, but not required.
- Required hand sanitizer before workout.

#### Physical Distancing

- Staff and patrons will utilize one-way entrance and exit. Traffic flow patterns have been marked throughout the facility.
- Signage will designate physical distancing at the front desk area, group fitness room, weight room, and other areas as needed.
- All cardio and weight equipment is spaced, at minimum, 6 feet apart.
- Selectorized weight equipment and some cardio is moved to court 2 to assist in social distancing.

#### Restrictive Use

At this time, the following activities/services will be prohibited and/or unavailable:

- Indoor sports equipment (volleyball, basketball, pickleball, etc.)
- Towel service
- Water fountains for drinking (only available for refilling)
- Hard to clean fitness equipment (bands, slam balls, etc.)

### 28. What is happening with student services and student activities?

The university will continue to offer student support services, including academic advising, tutoring, career services, counseling, and student life activities. Most services will be offered both virtually and in-person. [Counseling Services](#) will continue to support students and will offer new virtual walk-in appointments, workshops and other opportunities to help students cope with the stressors caused by COVID-19. Guidelines are under development for student events. Further, we will have new Welcome Week programs that meet CDC guidelines. We also encourage students to use outdoor space whenever possible.

### 29. What protocols should students expect at campus life activities and club meetings?

To promote safe and healthy practices on campus, it is best for student organizations to hold virtual meetings and events. However, the Office of Student Life understands that in some instances a live in-person event is most desirable. It is necessary to submit the event planning form to the Office of Student Life for approval before the planned event. The review of a safe practices' tutorial is also required for all student organizers of an event.

Social distancing etiquette and masks will be required at all in-person events. There will also be limitations to the number of participants per event. If the student organization is bringing in a non-campus guest or using outside vendors in any way, the guest/vendor will have to be approved by the Office of Student Life. There will be approved locations for indoor events and each location will have capacity limits.

If food is being served at this event, the items must be individually packed/wrapped. No self-serve buffet will be allowed. It is preferable to use campus dining's catering service when providing food, but food may be purchased from an outside vendor or grocery store. Sandwiches or boxed meals may be provided by an outside vendor if the vendor does the packaging.

### 30. Will there still be Academic Advising?

All advising holds have been lifted for current students for fall registration. If you have not consulted with your advisor about the fall semester, you are **strongly** encouraged to reach out in order to ensure that you are taking appropriate courses and remain on track to for timely graduation. In addition to speaking with your advisor, take advantage of [online resources](#). If you have questions, contact your Advisor or the Registrar's Office: [registrar@uscb.edu](mailto:registrar@uscb.edu).

### 31. Will I still be able to take the bus from Bluffton to Hilton Head Island for classes?

No. As a mitigation strategy, USCB will no longer offer the Palmetto Breeze shuttle because this kind of mass transit – many people in a single vehicle – is not viable in the short run.

### 32. What is the protocol for transportation between campuses and/or to off-campus activities if I drive my own car?

We strongly recommend that, if you travel in personal vehicles between campuses or for off-campus events, you limit the number of people per vehicle as much as possible. Whenever possible, the number should be limited to one person per vehicle. If more than one person is in the vehicle, vehicle occupants must:

- Wear face masks/cloth face coverings
- Use hand sanitizer regularly
- Allow for the circulation of outside air

## QUARANTINE & ISOLATION

### 33. If I have to quarantine or isolate, do I go home or can I remain in the residence halls?

Students who live in the residence halls are required – by the recently-updated USCB housing contract – to follow all public health guidelines, including those related to quarantine and isolation. In the event that students require quarantine or isolation, USCB's standard protocol is for students to return to their primary residences. If they are unable to return home, the university will provide alternate housing on-campus for the duration of their quarantine or isolation. During this period, the [Public Health Response Team](#) will work with housing, dining, and others to ensure that the student is supported.

Every student, who lives in USCB's residence halls, must complete forms for [Move-In Health Screening](#) (within 48 hours of arriving to campus) and [My Personal Health Plan](#), which the Housing Office will keep on file. The plan is a record of each student's preferred plans in the event that quarantine or isolation is necessary. Further, all quarantined or isolated students (whether at home or on campus), including commuters, should submit the COVID-19 Student Report Form, so that USCB personnel may assist with faculty notifications and any other needed academic accommodations.

### 34. If I have to quarantine or isolate on campus, who will bring my meals and class items?

The [Public Health Response Team](#) will work with housing, dining, and academic affairs to coordinate meals, course work, and other necessities.

## ACADEMICS

### 35. What dates do classes start and end?

USCB will resume face-to-face instruction on its three campuses for Fall 2020. Because your well-being remains our priority, the fall semester calendar has been revised, running straight through with no Fall Break. Face-to-face classes will begin Wednesday, August 20 and conclude Wednesday, November 24. After Thanksgiving Break (November 25-29), students will not return to campuses – instead finishing the fall semester remotely, then returning to campuses for the spring 2021 semester.

### 36. Could USCB make changes to its academic calendar for the year, or are big changes system-wide decisions?

The current circumstances related to COVID-19 are unprecedented. But these kinds of decisions for one or more of our institutions are likely to be made at the system level – with the input and approval of the Board of Trustees.

### **37. What “triggers” would lead to changes in the academic calendar or modes of course delivery?**

It is premature to identify “triggers” because there are many independent and interconnected variables that will determine whether or when the university will adjust operations. These variables include but are not limited to: numbers of confirmed cases on campus, numbers of confirmed cases in our region and local communities, adherence to best practices by the full university community, availability of hospital beds in the region, usage of isolation rooms on campus for residential students, and feedback/data from medical professionals in the region. The [Public Health Response Team](#) will update Cabinet on any developments, which might lead to adjustments in modes of instruction and delivery, opening or closing of services, etc. Further, a color-coded system to keep outside communities abreast of the state of the university community is being considered.

### **38. Have classrooms been reconfigured to accommodate social distancing?**

Yes. After careful assessment, all USCB classrooms have been reconfigured for a 33 percent COVID-19 occupancy. While all other USC system institutions are using 50 percent occupancy, we believe 33 percent provides for six-foot distancing. Computer labs are also configured for 33 percent occupancy. Signage will guide students to seats that are physically distanced from classmates and professors.

### **39. What happens if my professor gets sick?**

If a faculty member becomes sick but is still able to teach online, your course may be moved online. If a faculty member is not able to teach, a new instructor will be selected from USCB’s instructor pool.

### **40. Would it be possible for professors to post recorded lectures (e.g., with a software such as Tegrity) for those students, who do not feel comfortable attending classes face-to-face (especially because some required classes are not offered in an online format)?**

USCB faculty have the ability to record classes through Blackboard Collaborate. Students will need to inform faculty in writing (by email) to allow time for arrangements.

### **41. What kinds of technologies do I need for my classes?**

Courses may require virtual delivery and virtually-proctored exams, which would require a computer outfitted with both camera and microphone. Exams may be proctored using Respondus software, which can be downloaded free of charge. Student equipment needs for successful course completion will be noted in the syllabi and discussed by faculty on the first day of the course.

### **42. How will I know which face-to-face section of a course I am in?**

Professors will communicate with you prior to the start of class, regarding who will attend the first (or second, etc.) meeting.

### **43. Will I have "paper" tests or hand in “paper” assignments during the Fall 2020 semester?**

You will use Blackboard as the primary method for quizzes, assignments, and exams. However, if there is a need to physically distribute and collect work, this process should be done in a manner that avoids multiple people handling the same pieces of paper.

### **44. Will grading be the same?**

Yes. Barring unforeseen circumstances, USCB’s normal grading system will be used.

### **45. Are the online classes synchronous (live, in real time) or asynchronous (students do the work whenever they want to)?**

This fall there will be face-to-face classes as well as both synchronous and asynchronous online classes. If you want to know how a course will be delivered, check Banner or check with [Academic Advising](#).

### **46. How should students social distance for group projects and meetings with faculty?**

To the extent possible, meetings should convene via online platforms – to avoid unnecessary physical contact. Where face-to-face meetings are necessary, meetings should be convened in ways that allow for six-foot social distancing – in open areas or rooms with occupancy levels that significantly exceed the numbers of participants (i.e., not greater than 33 percent of occupancy limit). Further, faculty may hold virtual office hours and student meetings.

#### **47. Is study abroad being offered this year?**

The [Public Health Response Team](#) has recommended that USCB students not engage in any study abroad or exchange activities throughout the 2020-21 academic year given the continued uncertainty of COVID-19, including concerns about rapidly-changing entry and exit requirements for international destinations. The university continues to reassess its recommendation as circumstances evolve.

## **TUITION, FEES, SCHOLARSHIPS & FINANCIAL AID**

#### **48. Will tuition and fees be affected by all of the changes happening because of COVID-19?**

USCB has no plans to make changes to tuition and mandatory fees for the Academic Year 2020-2021.

#### **49. If cases continue to rise, will we be asked to vacate the residence halls like the spring? Will our housing and dining fees be refunded again?**

If the situation with COVID-19 triggers a move to fully online course delivery as it did in spring 2020, residence halls are likely to be vacated. In that case, pro-rated refunds would be provided (as they were in spring 2020) to students for their housing and unused meal credits.

#### **50. Why did the meal plan options change?**

To give students more flexibility and to provide better value, USCB's meal-plan options have been restructured to incorporate a declining balance system. This enhancement eliminates overpayment (i.e., the need to use a full meal swipe) at times when students want to buy smaller items (e.g., coffee or a smoothie).

#### **51. What happened to the CARES Act funding?**

Cares Act funding was distributed according to federal guidelines. Half was disbursed directly to students. The other half, along with anticipated funding from the state's AccelerateSC relief program, will be used, according to guidelines, to offset lost revenue and/or expenses incurred through the university's response to the Covid-19, including but not limited to the costs of PPE, supplies, physical accommodations, and more.

#### **52. Are students allowed to work on campus this year?**

Yes. Students will be allowed to work. Parallel guidelines for returning to campus including expectations for personal responsibility, wearing masks, social distancing, self-monitoring daily for Covid-19 symptoms, etc. have been shared with all students and will continue to be communicated and reinforced throughout the semester. All university employees should read: [COVID-19: Guidelines for University Operations](#).

#### **53. Are internships happening this year?**

Yes. There are four internship courses offered fall semester in addition to other opportunities. Learn more through [Career Services](#) and [Internship Spotlight](#).

#### **54. What should I do if I am experiencing financial hardship due to COVID-19?**

If you are in need of financial assistance, you can submit an [Emergency Aid Application](#). For questions about emergency support, reach out to Deonne Yeager, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Development, at [deonne@uscb.edu](mailto:deonne@uscb.edu).

#### **55. How can I stay informed about COVID-related topics at USCB?**

Updates will be communicated to students via email and posted to the [Student Resources page](#) of uscb.edu.

