



## Haskell Communications on Ongoing Haskell Operations and Academic Functions

The administration of Haskell Indian Nations University has been working closely with the University of Kansas, Haskell, Lawrence, and Douglas County communities to meet the challenges currently posed by the spread of COVID-19. Haskell remains open and operational to serve our students and employees. Responding to present circumstances, Haskell will continue to move forward in providing its students safe, meaningful, and purposeful education to accomplish its mission and serve its students' futures, families, Tribes, and communities.

This will involve a number of significant changes. Among them are the following:

- Spring Break has been extended through March 22 for students.
- Students are advised not to return to campus after Spring Break until further notice if they can possibly make other arrangements and to prepare to meet academic requirements remotely. Students presently on campus will be supported and assisted in returning to homes and families if appropriate to their circumstances.
- Course instruction and associated requirements are transitioning to virtual (remote) instruction for our classes. This transition will be completed by dedicated and supported faculty and staff by Monday, March 23, 2020.
- Many University and campus activities, events, and facilities are immediately suspended/closed until further notice, including, but not limited to, the following:
  - Haskell Athletics seasons and activities
  - Recruitment visits by prospective schools and students
  - Spring 2020 Graduation Commencement
  - Intramural athletics
  - Thorpe Fitness Center, Coffin Complex, and Tecumseh Hall

Institutions of higher education across the country are following similar measures. Native students and their communities deserve nothing less than the safest, most affordable, and highest quality education. We will continue to meet student learning outcomes and course objectives, albeit through different methods. Rest assured that even with in-person classes suspended, students will be able to accomplish their academic goals through Blackboard and remote learning.

Our campus is taking appropriate measures to protect the health of our students, their families and the greater Haskell and Tribal communities. A census is being taken of the status and situation of those students currently on campus and of their needs so that we can appropriately support them. Haskell is following, as we all should do, the Center for Disease Control's (CDC) recommendations for healthy practices. We highly recommend referencing their website at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/index.html>

We will strive to make this transition as seamless as possible. We will provide regular updates, resources, and additional information on our official Facebook and Twitter accounts, along with a forthcoming dedicated University webpage.

To students and their families:

1. Do not return to campus if at all possible. Stay where you are, hopefully with family and local resources available.
2. Be in contact with your faculty/advisors via email or phone about course completion, pre-registration for summer and fall, and other matters related to your academic success beginning Tuesday, March 24. They will support you as you successfully complete the semester and pre-enroll for summer and fall courses.
3. Your personal possessions in the residence halls will be completely safe and secure. If it is imperative to return to collect your possessions still in the residence halls, then that may be done no later than Tuesday, March 17.
4. We are excited to work with you as Haskell transitions to offering more online and distance learning opportunities in the future. We welcome your input about how we can best design these opportunities to help current and future Haskell students and graduates achieve their academic goals.

In a larger sense, we continue to endorse and follow—as we encourage all of our community to do—CDC guidance on healthy and preventative practices as we forge ahead as a leader in the education of Native students nation-wide. We continue to work in alliance with and support of our fellow Tribal Colleges and Universities, as well as our local and national college and university peers.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we all learn to navigate this particular challenge and opportunity. Further, we recognize that with your participation and support, Haskell Indian Nations University will be better now and in future. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact us between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday at 785-830-2770 or anytime at [info@haskell.edu](mailto:info@haskell.edu).

Onward Haskell!