

As part of South University's commitment to keep you informed about our COVID-19 response and related changes for students, staff, and faculty, I wanted to provide an update on the status of the South University Return to Campus Plan.

On June 1, 2020, South University implemented the Phase One Return to Campus Plan. This first phase began with identifying lab courses that required limited on-campus instruction using extensive safety protocols for involved faculty and students. We announced initial preparations for the Phase Two Return to Campus Plan for July 7, 2020. However, due to increasing numbers of COVID-19 cases in several campus locations, we delayed the date for the initiation of Phase Two Return to Campus.

Although the university was hopeful a return to more campus courses and operations would occur this summer, a date for our Phase Two Return to Campus has not been determined. Therefore, South University will continue operating under our Phase One of the Return to Campus Plan using the SouthVR virtual modality along with required experiential laboratory sessions limited to fifteen (15) people with adequate space for physical distancing to be maintained.

The University continues to plan for an eventual return to campus for more courses. Currently, a small number of students, staff and faculty are on campus for laboratory courses that must be presented in person. Those campus classes are going very well, thanks to the diligence of students, faculty and staff who are following safety protocols.

As soon as possible, additional staff, faculty and some students in some courses will return to campus (Phase Two). At this time we anticipate that selected courses will be offered at each of our campus locations for the Fall Term starting in October. The University's leadership, including the Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, the College Deans, Campus Presidents and Directors will determine which courses will be offered under Phase Two conditions. The paramount focus will be to provide a safe environment, including social distancing, use of PPE and appropriately clean environments. Courses selected will be those that have the highest impact on student learning when delivered in person. Additional on-campus staff will be needed to support additional on-campus activity and courses.

University Administration and the COVID-19 Task Force continue to monitor the status of each campus location, in addition to federal, state and local COVID-19 guidelines. South University is committed to keeping our community safe and maintaining effective communication throughout the pandemic.

Staff and faculty who wish to return to campus before the launch of the Phase Two Return to Campus Plan should contact their supervisor and campus leader.

I appreciate your ongoing patience and understanding as we each pledge to maintain the health of everyone within our community. As part of that pledge, earlier this week South University announced that we will offer a Contact Tracing course which is available to the public (at no charge) to fight to contain the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19 disease.

As public health agencies across the country expressed their need to expand their workforce to conduct contact-tracing interviews, South University was able to help by creating an online course designed to provide training to individuals who wish to qualify as contact tracers. For more details about this project visit: <https://www.southuniversity.edu/news-room/2020/07/contact-tracing-course-launch>

Thanks for your resilience adapting to the challenges 2020 has brought to our community. Your response continues to make academic dreams a reality for so many!

Thank you,

Steve