

# Fall 2020 Instructional Continuity Update

Humboldt State University

## Introduction

HSU is at a juncture regarding the immediate future of instruction at HSU due to COVID-19. This situation also represents an opportunity to be forward-thinking so as to be structurally and pedagogically nimble enough to address future challenges that will inevitably emerge.

This update outlines options moving forward for AY20-21. They are based on our commitment to enhance and grow quality instruction at HSU, increase graduation, improve retention, reduce equity gaps, and drive innovation. These options are informed by an April 21, 2020 memo following a [presentation](#) by the Chancellor's Senior Leadership Council that highlights topics and scenarios for consideration as campuses prepare for the fall 2020 semester. The CO's document focused on four scenarios and are best understood in reference to California's six indicators for modifying the stay at home order.

1. The ability to monitor and protect our communities through testing, contact tracing, isolating, and supporting those who are positive or exposed;
2. The ability to prevent infection in people who are at risk for more severe COVID 19;
3. The ability of the hospital and health systems to handle surges;
4. The ability to develop therapeutics to meet the demand;
5. The ability for businesses, schools, and child care facilities to support physical distancing; and
6. The ability to determine when to reinstitute certain measures, such as the stay at home orders, if necessary.

This update is structured as follows:

- Instructional Continuity Phase 4: Summer - Fall 2020
- 4 Scenarios for Fall 2020
- Unpacking Scenarios: Pros & Cons
- Conclusion

## Instructional Continuity Phase 4: Summer 2020 - fall 2020

The goal for Phase 4 of the instructional continuity plan is to prepare for fall instruction. Phase 4 consists of four interconnected steps.

<p><b>Step 4: Spring 2021</b> Academic Program Assessment - Institutional Reporting (ILO-PLO-GLO-SLO)</p>
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**Step 3: Fall 2020**

Peer Assessment for online courses through the implementation of the CSU quality assurance peer review protocol.

**Step 2: Summer 2020**

Summer programming to support online course development and implementation.

**STEP 1: Spring 2020**

Prepare HSU community for the fall semester.

- Definitive instructional modality decision for fall 2020.
- Messaging to campus.
- Establish summer support mechanisms and programming.

**4 Scenarios for Fall 2020**

The four scenarios below are framed within the context of proactively planning for Fall 2020 and that such planning will position HSU well to navigate the evolving COVID-19 environment.

Option	Fall Status	Description
1	F2F Instruction in the Fall	Hold in person classes and offer support services on site in fall 2020 but with physical distancing rules and practices. Physical distancing orders will still be in place. Class sizes may be reduced to allow for distancing. Need additional sanitizing of spaces across campus. All faculty staff, students who come to campus may need masks
2	Hybrid Approach	Mix of virtual and f2f classes and support services. A strategic

Option	Fall Status	Description
		<p>decision to define those programs and courses that will be in-person and those that will be conducted in alternative modalities.</p> <p>Assumes that physical distancing orders will still be in place. If COVID returns in the fall then move quickly back to fully virtual. This model could include altered academic calendars with in person classes being held for several hours a day for a few weeks; support services may also need alternative schedules. Class schedules will need to be significantly revised.</p> <p>Class sizes will need to be dramatically reduced to allow for social distancing. Need additional sanitizing of spaces across campus. All faculty staff, students who come to campus may need masks</p>
3	Fully Virtual	All programs, courses, and labs/studios will be virtual in form. Assumes that the COVID-19 pandemic is still a significant risk for in-person contact.
4	½ Semester Virtual, ½ Semester In Person	Start the fall 2020 semester in virtual/remote mode and then bring students back to campus for classes in mid to late October. Assumes COVID-19 will decline enough to resume on campus but at a later date.

### Unpacking Four Scenarios: Pros & Cons

#### Scenario 1: Face-to-Face Instruction in the Fall with Physical Distancing

Hold in person classes and offer support services on site in fall 2020 but with physical distancing rules and practices in place.

Pros	Cons
Less disruptive to traditional academic modes of instruction.	Class sizes will need to be dramatically reduced to allow for physical distancing.

Lab courses, performing arts, and other courses that need campus based facilities will be accommodated better in this model.	Campus hygiene: All students, faculty and staff who come to campus will need masks. There will need to be additional sanitizing of meeting spaces, student support offices, etc., across the campus.
Students and faculty will favor an in person, campus based experience.	Some faculty (and students and staff) will not be able to come to campus.
Instruction and student services can be more responsive to the broad range of learning styles and needs of our student communities.	If COVID 19 returns in the fall instruction may have to move quickly back to fully remote.

Scenario 2: Hybrid and Tiered Instructional Modalities

HSU will make a strategic decision to define those programs and courses that will be in-person and those that will be conducted in alternative modalities (online, hybrid, face-to-face). Assumes that physical distancing practices will still be in place, but the danger of growing infection across the community will be significantly reduced. A mix of virtual and in person course offerings and support services will be held during the entire fall 2020 semester. This model could include altered academic calendars with in person classes being held for several hours a day for a few weeks; support services may also need alternative schedules.

Pros	Cons
Less disruptive to traditional academic modes of instruction.	Class sizes will need to be dramatically reduced to allow for social distancing.
Lab courses, performing arts, and other courses that need campus based facilities will be accommodated better in this model.	Campus hygiene: All students, faculty and staff who come to campus will need masks. There will need to be additional cleaning of the campus.
Students and faculty will favor an in person, campus based experience.	Some faculty (and students and staff) will not be able to come to campus.
Instruction and student services can be more responsive to the broad range of learning styles and needs of our student communities.	Currently configured class schedules will need to be significantly revised.
	Faculty will need to receive training over the

	summer to better facilitate online/hybrid teaching.
	If COVID 19 returns in the fall instruction may have to move quickly back to fully remote.

Scenario 3: Fully Virtual

This scenario plans for all programs, courses, and labs/studios to be virtual in form. It assumes that the COVID-19 pandemic is still a significant risk for in-person contact.

Pros	Cons
If a second wave of COVID 19 comes, instruction will not be impacted.	Lab courses, and other courses that need campus based facilities will not be well accommodated in this model.
All faculty and students who need to remain sheltering in place will not be impacted.	We will need to ensure that all students have adequate technology and adequate understanding of online instruction.
Current class schedules could remain fairly static.	All faculty will have to be trained to provide online instruction. Staff will also have to be trained. This will be an expense over the summer.
Allows faculty, staff, returning students, prospective students and their families to plan ahead and have a sense of predictability.	There will be no Category III or IV campus based fees (i.e., user fees) collected (for parking, dining, housing, etc.) unless the student accesses those services.

Scenario 4: ½ and ½

Start the fall 2020 semester in virtual/remote mode and then start to bring students back to campus for classes in mid to late October

Pros	Cons
Less disruptive to traditional academic modes of instruction.	Class sizes will need to be dramatically reduced to allow for social distancing.

Pros	Cons
Lab courses, performing arts, and other courses that need campus based facilities will be accommodated better in this model.	Campus hygiene: All students, faculty and staff who come to campus will need masks. There will need to be additional, rigorous cleaning of the campus.
Students and faculty will favor an in person, campus based experience.	Some faculty (and students and staff) will not be able to come to campus.
If COVID 19 returns or if wildfires occur, instruction can remain in remote mode.	Currently configured class schedules will need to be significantly revised.
	Students will face challenges shifting housing and employment accordingly mid-term.
	If COVID 19 returns in the fall instruction may have to move quickly back to fully remote.
	Faculty will need to receive training over the summer to better facilitate online teaching.

## Conclusion

This proposal set out a list of scenarios that leadership may consider as the fall semester approaches and plan accordingly. It is based on the CSU Chancellor's Office recommendations of those options that have the highest probability of implementation. Pros and cons of each scenario are listed, but a more thorough analysis of the implications of any one scenario needs to be investigated.