

COVID-19 HIGHER ED FAQs

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How will my school's transition to remote instruction and on-campus restrictions affect my student fees?

A: At the request of Governor McMaster, the Commission on Higher Education is assessing the financial impact on students resulting from the necessary modification of course delivery and normal campus life. CHE is working on a plan of action that will be distributed to your institution's president when complete.

I am a college graduate who has been out of school for more than 6 months and I hold federal student loans. How are my student loan payments affected by the COVID-19 national emergency?

A: U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos announced on March 20th that federal student loan holders can suspend their payments and have their interest rates set at zero for at least 60 days. Please refer to studentaid.gov/coronavirus for forthcoming details.

I am a student using on-campus housing at a South Carolina institution of higher learning. I cannot return to my permanent residence. Can I continue residing on campus?

A: Each institution has its own policy regarding who is permitted to stay on campus after closure. Please contact your institution for more information.

I was given permission by my institution to continue living on-campus. Will on-campus and local transportation be available to me?

A: Each institution has individually modified their transportation operations. Please contact your institution for more information.

How will commencement ceremonies and other college events be affected?

A: According to Governor McMaster's March 15th Executive Order, events exceeding 50 people are prohibited until otherwise permitted. For information on events at your institution, please check your institution's website.

As of March 20, several South Carolina institutions are postponing commencement exercises and other college events.

My courses have transitioned to online instruction and I have returned to my permanent residence; however, to engage my instructor and successfully complete my coursework, I need additional wireless support. What should I do?

A: Presently, CHE is exploring options for securing additional Wi-Fi access for students around the state. Until a plan is developed and implemented, several companies, like Spectrum and Comporium, are offering free Wi-Fi for specified lengths of time. Contact them online or over the phone for program information and terms.

