

How's distance education going? ..Some students are at major risk of falling behind.

Everyone is having a harder time with the limited peer-to-peer interaction and lack of mentorship / internship opportunities, but some students are far more underserved by the limitations of online learning.



MULTICULTURAL

- Many colleges pride themselves on cultural diversity, but distance education feels like it primarily serves English speaking students.



NON-AUDIBLE LEARNING STYLE

- Students that aren't audible learners are having a significantly harder time retaining new information, since classes have become primarily audio lectures.



SPECIAL NEEDS

- Professors are worried about their special-needs students. They believe these students could fall behind due to lack of ADA compliance.

How can we help students recover from this, mentally and emotionally?

Professors and students alike worry about the students' mental health as a result of the pandemic. They feel robbed of professional networking opportunities, social connection, graduation celebrations, and their ability to make "once in a lifetime memories." Colleges have an opportunity to provide grief, crisis, and trauma counselors as a response.

"I would like to see more student support. I live in an area of 9 colleges. I'd like to see our students get a lot more social workers and mental health. That would be very fair. I think in some ways to help them be more prepared academically, but more so behaviorally, mentally, and emotionally. They need a tremendous amount more." (Professor)

"I feel like I've been robbed of my college experience and I don't know what it's going to be like in the future. Everything's up in the air. When we go back, I think it's going to just be completely different the first semester. I want to sit by certain people in class and now and I have to be 6 feet away from them, and I'm going to have to talk to my teachers with a face mask." (Student)

What decisions will be made based on whether we return to in-person instruction in the fall?



Where to live: Students that traveled for school don't know when, or if, they need to return to campus. They need to know ASAP whether they'll be returning to dorms or not, so they don't face displacement.



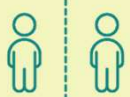
How and what to teach: Professors are spending time and resources writing multiple syllabi for the fall semester after learning that online-education doesn't allow for the same curriculum in-person does.



Which courses to enroll in: Forced distance education taught students that not all subjects can be taught online. Students are looking to rearrange their schedules to take theoretical classes online, saving hands-on courses for in-person. Students that need direct contact hours or fieldwork aren't sure what their next move is.

Do the guidelines make students & faculty feel safe from the virus? ...Not totally, but they feel *safe enough* to get back to their lives.

GUIDELINES THAT COULD WORK ON CAMPUS



SOCIAL DISTANCING

- Students feel capable of maintaining the suggested 6ft space
- Outdoor classes when possible



INCREASED SANITIZATION

- Student and professors helping to wipe down desks
- Double custodial staff
- Hybrid courses to allow for deep cleanings between in-person classes



CLINIC TESTING

- COVID testing available on-site
- Guidelines for quarantining on-campus if testing is positive