

Portage High School

Counseling Department

March 31, 2020

Dear PHS Students,

The Counseling Office staff have received inquiries from parents and students regarding how the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting college bound high school students now and in the future. Here's some information we can share at this time. Information and plans are changing daily, so it's important to "roll with it". Many colleges have changed their enrollment deadlines from May 1 to June 1, so you will need to check with school specifically on their plan for enrollment.

Message from UW-Eau Claire Campus:

(We have received numerous emails from many campuses with very similar thoughts...)

Hello, counselors and other high school staff!

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused a lot of stress, uncertainty, and change across the country, particularly in educational institutions. There is a lot to still navigate, but we wanted to reach out on behalf of UW-Eau Claire to address a couple of common questions we have been getting from students, parents, and school staff the past few days.

Spring 2020 Coursework Grading

We understand that grading at both the high school and college level may be impacted for this spring. If high schools decide to go to a pass/fail system, students' admission will not be negatively impacted as long as they pass the courses. Even then, we will try to be flexible and honor admission.

We still want students to try their best to finish strong in these uncertain times, but we know graded coursework may take a hit and/or grading systems may change. Students do still need to complete all required units and graduate from high school.

We will maintain this understanding moving forward for juniors, sophomores, and freshmen that apply in the future. These students have been through a lot this year, and we do not want to add to their anxiety and stress.

Message from WI Colleges:

All colleges are closed for campus visits at this time. Students are encouraged to go to the campus website to take a “virtual visit”, and think about an on site visit for a future date when it is safe.

Message from ACT:

Visit the website to learn more: actstudent.org

Message from College Board:

In the face of the significant disruptions caused by the coronavirus, the College Board has been seeking and listening to your input on how we might best support you and your students now and in the coming months.

You have been clear: The College Board needs to act to reassure students, counselors, high schools, and higher education that we're committed to providing support, flexibility, and solutions during this crisis.

Because students overwhelmingly told us they want to take their AP Exams, we're providing [online learning and AP Exams](#) available at home for all students this spring. We're so grateful to the community of extraordinary teachers who stepped up to teach [live classes on YouTube](#), as well as all the AP educators helping students continue with their study.

“**Message from College Board**” continued ...

We're working closely with our members in higher education to minimize the disruption of SAT administration cancellations this spring and to encourage flexibility in the college admissions process whenever possible. We're heartened by those institutions that have already made clear, calming statements that emphasize flexibility in admissions at this time—encouraging students to submit as much information as they can, and reassuring applicants that they will not be disadvantaged should they have to submit Pass/Fail grades for the spring, have incomplete extracurricular profiles, or miss a testing deadline.

Sincerely,

The PHS Counseling Department