

COVID-19 Statement, published April 28, 2020

To all GLIT and TG Students:

I hope this email finds you and your family healthy and safe.

I am sure you have read that Governor Wolf released a phased, color coded plan to reopen the economy beginning as soon as May 8. While we wait for more details from the Governor's office, I would like to take the time to clarify how that plan will be applied to our school. GLIT is a unique business and I know there has been some confusion about where we fit.

Great Lakes does not fall into the "school" category in the Governor's plan. When he says schools will stay closed, he means K-12 schools unless he specifies otherwise. Also, we do not fall under the category of "Career Technical Centers (CTC)". Those are the vocational schools that are part of the state school systems. We are sometimes considered "higher education", but when he uses this term, he is typically referring to the state-run Universities. Currently, schools like GLIT and TG fall under the category of "non-essential businesses" or "Technical and Trade School" in his plan. We would also be included in the category "all post-secondary institutions". These things are important to remember as more of Governor Wolf's plans are announced.

The school will follow all the recommendations of the state and local authorities, taking a cautious approach to returning to the facility, protecting our students, employees, and their families from further spread of COVID-19. When it is announced that Technical and Trade Schools may resume in-person training, we will not be bringing all of the students and classes back at the same time; instead, we will be bringing classes back in phases.

Over the next two weeks, school officials will meet with program directors and instructors to categorize each course into three priority levels: orange, yellow, and green. Orange level priority will be given to students that are close to graduation and enrolled in courses that do not have any lecture classes. These courses will return to the building first. Yellow level priority will be courses that can temporarily remain online without affecting graduation dates and will return during the second phase. Green level priority will be given to classes that can continue to be successful online through the summer, if needed, and will remain online the longest. Keep in mind that while this transition occurs, most students will have a combination of online classes and in-person classes at once.

Please note that this plan does not consider when Externships will resume, as the school cannot plan for when Externship Sites will again permit students to attend. Externships will be handled on a case by case basis.

Phase 1

During Phase 1, we will operate in a fully hybrid environment, with some classwork being done in the building while other classwork will remain online. The number of classes and students permitted in the building will be based on current state and local guidance relating to work and congregate setting restrictions, social distancing mandates, and facility safety. Hybrid courses in the yellow priority will be taught partly online and partly in the building, where possible.

Priority Courses in the Building	Hybrid Courses	Courses Remaining Online
Students in programs that the Department of State has determined online courses are not permissible	Lab-based courses that include a lecture component that, if further postponed, will interfere with externship start dates or graduation dates.	All lab based and clinical courses that still are able to meet the program goals using simulation or other online tool.
Lab courses that have been postponed and as a result, have affected students' externship dates or graduation dates	*Any courses deemed to be priority but are limited by other mandated restrictions.	All lab-based classes that are able to be postponed without interfering with externship or graduation dates.
Students on Leave of Absence because all lecture has been completed and the only coursework left are labs.		All lecture-based courses

Phase 2

During Phase 2, additional classes will be permitted to move into the building as work, congregate, and social distancing restrictions are lifted by the state and local authorities.

Priority Courses in the Building	Hybrid Courses	Courses Remaining Online
Students in programs that the Department of State has determined online courses are not permissible	All lab and clinic-based courses that still are able to meet the program goals using simulation or other online tool.	All lecture-based courses
Lab courses that have been postponed and as a result, have affected students' externship dates or graduation dates	All lab-based classes that are able to be postponed without interfering with graduation dates.	
Students on Leave of Absence because all lecture has been completed and the only coursework left are labs and externship.		
Lab-based courses that include a lecture component that, if further postponed, will interfere with externship start dates or graduation dates.		

Phase 3

Phase 3 is the final phase and considered to be full reopening of the facilities. The school, students and employees will follow PA Department of Health and CDC in place at the time of reopening.

Courses in the Building	Hybrid Courses	Courses Remaining Online
Students in programs that the Department of State has determined online courses are not permissible	None	None
Lab courses that have been postponed and as a result, have affected students' externship dates or graduation dates		
Students on Leave of Absence because all lecture has been completed and the only coursework left are labs and externship.		
Lab-based courses that include a lecture component that, if further postponed, will interfere with externship start dates or graduation dates.		
All lab and clinic-based courses that still are able to meet the program goals using simulation or other online tool.		
All lab-based classes that are able to be postponed without interfering with graduation dates.		
All lecture-based courses		

Thank you all for your patience and resilience during these uncertain times. I am proud to be part of a community of educators and students who have put the greater good above their own self-interest and have done such a great job of maintaining a quality education and a positive attitude. I look forward to seeing all your smiling faces back on campus soon.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitation to reach out to me at VickieC@glit.edu. You may also access our online support line at www.GLIT.edu.

Warm Regards,
Vickie Clements
Director of Education