

Kent State University
School Psychology Program's Response to the H1N1 Flu Advisory
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As a result of recent governmental reports regarding the potential seriousness of the H1N1 flu virus this season, considerations for maintaining academic operations are necessary. Kent State's current plan in the event of a H1N1 outbreak is to "to conduct academic business as usual and not to alter the semester in anyway unless absolutely necessary." University administrators also have encouraged faculty to be proactive in their preparations for the upcoming semester and to alert their students at the beginning of the semester of strategies for maintaining progress in the event that a student or group of students must miss class for an extended period of time as a direct result of H1N1 infection. As a result, the faculty within the school psychology program has identified several strategies that are aligned with the focus of instruction and the type of products required within specific courses.

For courses that evaluate students using traditional exams and/or class-based products, instructors may develop alternatives such as take-home exams, online tests, or require a student to complete self-directed assignments through supplemental readings, chapter outlines, and/or reports. In the event that a student must miss a substantial portion of the semester (four or more class meetings), the instructor will make a decision as to the whether or not the student would be required to retake the course. Such a decision will be based on objective information obtained through permanent products that demonstrate if a student has acquired the basic fundamentals necessary for advancement into higher-level classes.

For courses that evaluate students using field-based products that demonstrate content knowledge and professional deportment, instructors may choose either to provide alternative assignments that the student can complete at home (i.e., self-study, reports) or assign an 'In Progress' (IP) grade with the intent that the student will complete the activities as soon as he or she is able and receive individual supervision/support from the instructor. For example, a semester long project that requires a student to interface with a professional and culminates with a final report may not be conducive to a self-study project. As such, the student will have to 'make-up' those activities missed and complete the project within the following semester. At that point, the student's IP grade would be changed to a letter grade.

For those students who are engaged in professional training activities such as practicum or internship, instructors may provide extended opportunities for gathering the required hours when the student becomes well. For practica, this may include and extension of the timeframe to complete activities or providing the student with additional days of visitation to fulfill various requirements. For internship, this may include working additional days during holidays and/or breaks or additional days beyond the school year. All interventions and/or accommodations for interns will first be discussed with field-based supervisors and will seek to parallel the expectations and procedures of the intern's employing school district.

In the unlikely event that Kent State University would cease academic operations due to widespread or a major outbreak of H1N1, recommendations will be provided at that time. We encourage you to be as informed as possible. If you have specific questions, please call Kent State's College of Public Health at X26500 or visit www.kent.edu/flu for updates and important information. In the meantime, be sure to take the necessary precautions for maintaining your health and/or prevent the potential spread of H1N1. Detailed information regarding H1N1 flu and public health guidance are available at www.cdc.gov/H1N1Flu/.