March 18, 2020

An important message from Dean Thompson:

Dear Students (Undergraduate Programs in Nursing/CNHS, UMass Boston):

Due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19), the UMass Boston Campus will be moving all in-person classes to online. Most importantly you need to remain available on the days and times of your courses and clinical placement. This is essential as your online clinical and didactic learning can include both synchronous (all together virtually) and asynchronous (readings, PowerPoints, and assignments that you complete on your own by specified dates). All faculty and staff will be working remotely.

The Nursing Department will be communicating and providing services via email, phone, or Zoom (video conferencing application) in order to reduce the density of people on campus and encourage social distancing. If there is anything you need from us, please know that we are still here for you and we are happy to assist you with academic matters. We want to assure you that we have and continue to work diligently in developing a plan for the continuity of learning that supports the successful completion of the Spring 2020 semester with student progression to future courses and graduation. This letter is sent to provide an overview of the ongoing planning. You will be receiving more specific information from your course coordinators and clinical instructors. We ask for your patience and understanding as we move classroom learning to online/virtual modalities.

You may direct your questions to:

1. Nursing Department Chair (Ann Gakumo): ann.gakumo@umb.edu
2. Nursing Undergraduate Program Director (Judith Walsh): Judith.Walsh@umb.edu
3. Nursing Undergraduate Accelerated Option (Rachel West): Rachel.West@umb.edu
4. RN to BS Program Director (Christine Salvucci): Christine.Salvucci@umb.edu
5. Nursing Undergraduate Clinical Education Director (Katie Kafel): Kathleen.Kafel@umb.edu
6. CCER Director (Rosemary Samia): Rosmary.Samia@umb.edu
7. Nursing Advisor (Beth Donahoe): Elizabeth.Donahoe@umb.edu
8. Nursing Undergraduate Program Assistant (Joann Berrouet): Joann.Berrouet@umb.edu
9. WHO Program Manager (Robin Babcock): Robin.Babcock@umb.edu

Classroom

Your course professors have been working on revising their courses to adapt to an online learning environment. The university has been offering many trainings on all the tools that are available to support student learning online. Your course professor should be emailing you by the beginning of next week with more specific details about the adjustments for the course and the online teaching-learning tools that they will use.

Here is the link for Bb Learn Help for Students:

https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Student
You should sign-up for a FREE Zoom account (You will be using Zoom for Clinical learning and conferences). Here is the link:

https://www.zoom.us/signup

The Zoom app is available for free on the App Store for iPhone and iPad, and the Google Play Store for Android.

Information Technology help: ITServiceDesk@umb.edu (617-287-5220)

Assistance with InPlace: inplacehelp@umb.edu

Clinical

Rosemary Samia, Director of the CCER and Katie Kafel, Director of Clinical Education have used their combined expertise in virtual learning and clinical learning to identify varied tools, which will support continued clinical learning and course objectives and will be of no extra cost to you. Similar to the classroom, some of your work will be completed individually through the virtual and online programs that will be provided. However, you will also be connecting with your clinical instructor during your clinical day/time as she/he stipulates. You will be receiving specific guidance from your clinical instructor as soon as possible.

Online Exams

Although online exams have existed in other courses, they are new to clinical courses. This is an adjustment for you and for faculty. We are working with BlackBoard eLearning instructors to find a fair and secure method to administer your exams. As we will be using the Respondus Lockdown Browser, exams must be done on a laptop, PC or iPad. Your professor will be providing more specific information about your exams.

We acknowledge that this is a stressful time for all of us as we try to make the required accommodations both for school and our everyday lives. Please know that we will work with you to the best of our ability to move forward through a successful semester.

Like you, the faculty, staff and administration in the CNHS are closely monitoring guidelines from the CDC, WHO and other national and local health organizations. Please remain updated so that you protect your health and wellbeing and that of your family, friends, neighbors and community.

To get updated information about university policies about COVID-19 please click here: https://www.umb.edu/coronavirus/updates