

JUNE 2020

COVID19 Academic Response Plan

After completing the first module of classes on campus, African Christian College joined the world in shifting focus to save lives due to the coronavirus pandemic. Eswatini, like most of Southern Africa, responded swiftly to flatten the curve by instituting a countrywide lockdown that included the closing of learning institutions to reduce the spread of the virus and not overwhelm a still-fragile healthcare system.

Instead of returning to classes on 23 March, African Christian College was in lockdown after offering students an opportunity to remain on campus during the pandemic. On 20 April, we began eight weeks of online learning primarily to complete courses left at mid-term in the March break. The move online happened swiftly and through focused efforts of staff and students to complete classes in two-week sessions. Thankfully, we already had systems established with Google Suite for Education (including Google Classroom) and some students had used the system in their residential classes in 2019.

The leadership of African Christian College has worked diligently and proactively to plan for safety and flexibility in response to the virus. At the beginning of May, it became clear that face-to-face learning for the rest of the year was at-best unpredictable and difficult. The decision to go online with all courses for the remainder of the year was made because most students remained on campus with internet access, students had a desire to continue their studies, and the online courses underway were progressing well. By the end of May, COVID19 cases began rising in Eswatini and the campus's lockdown was extended through the end of July to maintain safety, steward resources, and delay implementation of strict safety restrictions. By mid-June, Eswatini had already announced and delayed the reopening of higher education institutions for final year students. However, these shifts do not affect us because of our forward-looking plans do not rely upon the government's response.

Currently, it is difficult to see when the necessary restrictions will end. Plans to continue online for the rest of 2020 grant ACC more time to plan for the challenges we'll continue to face in 2021, greater flexibility to respond to shifting dynamics, and increased safety for our students, faculty, and staff. Throughout Africa and the world, institutions that have been proactive in planning are moving forward with student learning while others are waiting for government restrictions to allow them to reopen.

Truly, we are blessed. God is at work.

2020 Online Learning Plan

All students will be able to progress through modifications in the academic plans for the remainder of 2020. This includes final year students graduating before the end of the year.

The information below outlines the strategies in place.

- ONE-COURSE AT A TIME.** Students will focus on one subject at a time to enhance learning and make it easier to balance the work required to study online.
- THREE-WEEK COURSES.** Each course lasts three weeks. This significantly condenses course length, but it also provides week-long breaks between each course for mental, physical, and emotional recovery and strengthening.
- 30-HOUR ACADEMIC WEEKS.** The condensed length of courses requires significant investment of around 30 learning hours per week by the student. Learning hours include all learning activities such as readings, working on assignments or research, studying, and class discussions.
- ZONDERVAN PARTNERSHIP.** We have partnered with theological publisher Zondervan Academic for each student to take at least two online courses for ACC credit. The courses follow traditional learning approaches of lecture, reading, and examination that we will supplement with other activities.
- THIRD-YEAR PRACTICUMS.** Third year students must complete their practicum experiences before the end of the academic year to receive credit. Organisational Leadership and Ministry students have practicums that can be completed on-campus, even during the lockdown. If feasible at the time, Counselling students will do personal counselling in November, but will complete case studies online to ensure meeting the practicum requirements.
- AN EXCEPTION: TRAUMA COUNSELLING.** One course is currently scheduled to take place in person as a regular, two-week midmester course: *Trauma Counselling*. This course is only for third year counselling students and will take place in the midmester 08:00-13:00 format, 7-20 October. This is because the lecturer is accessible, the students are few, and the subject will greatly benefit from in-person learning. Should circumstances prevent an in-person class, we will revert to an online plan.
- GRADUATION.** Only delayed two weeks by the circumstances, graduation is scheduled for Saturday 12 December 2020, immediately following the completion of the academic year.
- QUALITY ASSURANCE.** Because the shift to online learning is new, we are modifying course requirements and accountability for lecturers and will utilise off-line methods for examination of students to ensure academic integrity.

2020 ACADEMIC CALENDAR

	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
JUNE		1	2	3	4	5	6
	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	28	29	30	1	2	3	4
JULY	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	26	27	28	29	30	31	1
		2	3	4	5	6	7
AUG	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	30	31	1	2	3	4	5
	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
SEPT	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	27	28	29	30	1	2	3
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
OCT	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
NOV	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	29	30	1	2	3	4	5
	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
DEC	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	27	28	29	30	31		

2020 Course Modified Course Schedule

Module 3: 22 June – 10 July (3 weeks)

1 st Years	Counselling	Leadership	Ministry
World Religions [Zndrvn] Manuel de Oliveira	Romans & Galatians [Zondervan] Dr Paul Chimhungwe		

Module 4: 20 July – 7 August (3 weeks)

1 st Years	Counselling	Leadership	Ministry
Old Testament Intro Dr Ashley Hibbard	Church Planting & Growth [Zondervan] Dr Paul Chimhungwe		

Module 5: 17 August – 4 September (3 weeks)

1 st Years	Counselling	Leadership	Ministry
Evangelism [Zndrvn] Machona Monyamane	Developmental Psychology Dr Alan Martin	Community Development Alvin Mbola	Prophets [Zndrvn] Manuel de Oliveira

Module 6: 14 September – 2 October (3 weeks)

1 st Years	Counselling	Leadership	Ministry
Pentateuch Dr Ashley Hibbard	Social Psychology Lynn Rhodes & Tendekai Mashaire		General Epistles [Zndrvn] Manuel de Oliveira

Module 7: 7-20 October (2-week, in-person Midmester)

3rd Year Counselling Majors	Trauma Counselling Celeste Jacobs		
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Module 8: 26 October – 13 November (3 weeks)

1 st Years	Counselling	Leadership	Ministry
New Testament Intro Manuel de Oliveira	Behaviour Change Psych Dr HM Motsinger	Org Communication Tendekai Mashaire	Current Issues [Zndrvn] Dr Paul Chimhungwe

Module 9: 23 November – 11 December (3 weeks)

1 st Years	Counselling	Leadership	Ministry
Luke & Acts Dr Paul Chimhungwe	Entrepreneurship Brad Carter		

+ Third Year students will complete **practicum** requirements throughout June-November 2020

+ **Counselling students** will complete practicum requirements following Trauma Counselling.

Graduation is rescheduled for Saturday 12 December 2020