

April 1, 2020

Dear Colleagues:

Today's update is necessarily a bit more formal in tone. Our recent announcement about the cancellation of face-to-face summer experiences has, understandably, raised some concerns.

Based on messages that I have been receiving, I'm getting the sense that some people are tacitly encouraging students to move forward with their internships, with the expectation that we can grant the credit later or some similar arrangement. Do not to do this.

I realize the challenges that cancelling face-to-face internships causes. That said, we are trying to avoid tragedy. According to the latest government estimates, even with the measures that are currently in place, there will be between 100,000-240,000 deaths in the U.S. due to COVID-19. Even though the risk of dying from this virus for young people is lower than it is for the general population, more young people are being hospitalized than was first predicted. And, seemingly healthy people can spread the disease to those who are more vulnerable. I do not believe that these risks are worth taking to stay "on track" for graduation.

I am directing the provost to work with all departments that require internships to explore alternative methods of meeting internship goals for programs whose accrediting bodies allow it.

If you have questions, please contact the provost at 724.738.2489 or jerry.chmielewski@sru.edu.

Best,

William J. Behre, Ph.D.
President