

## **COVID-19 Educational Contingency Plan**

### National American University

#### **Context**

NAU is a predominantly online institution with 2,000 students. Of these, NAU has 38 students in ground courses or on externships in four states: Missouri (7), Indiana (10), Colorado (9), and Texas (12). The students in required ground offerings are in the following programs:

- Diploma Medical Assisting, 10 students in courses or externship, Indiana
- BS Nursing, 12 students in courses and practica, Texas
- AAS Medical Laboratory Tech, 7 students in courses, Missouri
- AAS Occupational Therapy Assistant, 9 students in externship, Colorado

NAU also has students on military bases; however, students are not in required ground courses or programs.

#### **Contingency Plan Implemented**

##### BS Nursing (12 students)

All courses and practica were moved online effective March 13, 2020 and will remain so indefinitely until the students engage in clinicals in November 2020. Those will be reassessed as necessary.

##### AAS Medical Laboratory Technology (7 students)

All courses were moved online effective March 17, 2020 and can remain so through term end in May 2020. There will be checkpoints on April 6 and April 20, 2020 to determine if the CDC, state, and accreditor allow return to ground-based courses. The students are set for externships in June 2020. Those will be reassessed in May 2020.

##### AAS Occupational Therapy Assistant (9 students)

All students were on externship; however, the externship locations deemed no students may remain. We have suspended externships through April 6. We are working with ACOTE (accreditor) and other programs to explore a home-health support option to begin April 6. The secondary contingency plan is to suspend externships until the sites allow return of the students. Reassessments are made every other day.

##### Diploma Medical Assisting (10 students)

Students are in courses or in externship. All courses were moved online effective March 2, 2020 and will remain online through May 2020. Competency checks required by these courses will be done via meeting technology or 1-on-1 in the location; i.e., no more than two people in the space at a time. Some students continue on externship and will do so at the discretion of the externship site. For those students who have lost their externship due to the site no longer taking students as a result of COVID-19, NAU has suspended class through April 6 to determine if other placements can be made or whether to suspend further. The secondary contingency plan is to suspend externships through May 2020 and restart in June 2020 pending reassessment in May 2020.

##### Military Base Courses

All courses offered on ground at military bases are currently offered via synchronous, blended, or online delivery. Students do not need to be in attendance in a classroom to complete courses. NAU will sustain technology-mediated courses indefinitely as needed.

#### **Communication**

NAU is meeting weekly and more often with the 38 students and 5 faculty and staff to assess and take action to protect the health and safety of students, staff, and faculty, while also continuing education if possible. All staff and faculty have received communications addressing COVID-19 and appropriate web links to the CDC and measures to be taken. NAU provided the Higher Learning Commission staff liaison with an update on the actions taken as a result of COVID-19 on March 13, 2020.