

ChemE Virtual Town Hall



CHEMICAL ENGINEERING
UNIVERSITY *of* WASHINGTON



Topics

> COVID-19 impacts on

- Teaching
- Research
- Staff and Operations

> Q&A

- Submit additional questions via private chat to Lindsey Doermann during this Zoom call. Lindsey will handle all Q&A at the end, there will be no “open mic” due to limited time and the large group attending this call

> We will soon be rolling out a page on our website to direct you to appropriate UW resources

Big Picture: Stay Home, Stay Healthy

- > Governor Inslee's "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" directive is in effect from March 25 (5:00 pm) for at least two weeks
 - Every WA resident needs to stay home except for essential activities
 - Social gatherings are banned
 - All businesses are closed except essential businesses
 - Learn more at <http://governor.wa.gov>
- > UW previously announced that Spring Q instruction will be 100% online – plans are unchanged
- > UW took immediate steps to provide guidance for research labs, staffing and operations
- > We are in uncharted territory
- > Nobody knows what will happen in the coming weeks/months
 - Many are making guesses, but remember the error bars are HUGE

Spring Quarter Teaching Impacts

- > Welcome to a Zoom world
- > All ChemE Spring Q classes will be delivered online
- > Online classes will take a variety of forms including synchronous, asynchronous and mixed
- > We have been preparing for several weeks and the faculty and TA's will be ready
- > Undergrad classes will treat the 1st week as 'transitional' to accommodate new technology and class formats (Provost Richards directive)

Spring Quarter Teaching Impacts: New Technology

- > Three cool technology examples you might see in the classroom this Spring!
- > Synchronous/Virtual notes
- > Whiteboard tools for help sessions, recitations and office hours
- > Breakout rooms for active learning

Spring Quarter Teaching Impacts: Major Changes

- > Biggest impacts to undergrads are expected to be:
 - JUNIORS: Will take ChemE 435 in the Spring and ChemE 436 in the Autumn
 - SOPHOMORES: First ChemE experience, ChemE 310, will be 100% online
 - SENIORS/JUNIORS: ChemE 455 and 460 (Surface/Colloid and Polymer labs) will be delivered 100% online
- > For-credit undergrad research will be paused or continue online only – even if your PI's lab has an exemption to continue research.
 - Talk to your PI if you wish to continue for-credit UG research in a remote format
- > Graduate courses will also be online only. ChemE has no “core” grad classes during Spring Q and plans for electives are already in place
- > Every faculty member has wide latitude for designing their online courses, establishing syllabi, grading plans, etc.

Spring Quarter Teaching: Further Details

- > Teaching and instruction at universities is a critical state activity and, as required, faculty and TA's may need to periodically access on-campus technologies to support instruction
- > No UW employee will be required to come on campus and everyone has been given remote work options
- > No classes will require pickup or dropoff of any course materials: 100% online means 100% online



Spring Quarter Teaching: How Can You Help?

- > Undergrads: Please know we are doing our very best. Thank you in advance for patience and understanding and bringing us concerns and areas of improvement in healthy and productive ways.
- > Graduate students: We do not expect major impacts to your life regarding teaching given the small number of electives – keep taking it in stride!
- > Faculty: Thank you for your efforts so far – please continue to develop contingency plans and be flexible in your approach, especially for core classes
- > Graduate TAs: Thank you in advance for your quick adoption of technology and stepping up to help make sure our students are learning and classes are running smoothly
- > Staff: Continue your *amazing* efforts to help us prepare, especially IT and advising. Thank you!

Research Impacts

- > With very few exceptions, all ChemE research is now 100% remote and our labs are shut down
- > The SHSH orders provided for certain types of essential person research to continue. Partial list of examples:
 - COVID-19 related research
 - Research that is essential for Spring Q graduate student thesis/dissertation defenses
 - Research related to national security interests
- > UW ChemE worked closely with the UW to identify all qualifying research in advance of the SHSH start yesterday

Research Impacts: When Can It Continue?

- > In person research can only continue if ALL of the following are met:
 - It qualifies as “essential research”. Faculty had to request to me and be approved before this could happen.
 - Research personnel (RA’s and postdocs) have been given remote work opportunities and are still willing to come to campus. We are taking great efforts to make sure everyone is informed of their option to remain at home.
 - All previous EH&S consideration for the lab work can continue to be met
 - All new public health guidelines such as social distancing and frequent washing of surfaces will be followed
- > We have identified critical employees who either need to access campus to maintain facilities or are may be continuing in person research and have communicated with them

Research Impacts: What Is Remote Research?

- > The university is not in suspended operations
- > If you are a research employee (RA or postdoc), your supervisor has/will be working with you to develop plans for at least the next two weeks
- > Restrictions on job tasks have been eased and your PI may reasonably change what you are asked to work on (e.g., help with writing a literature review in a new area in preparation of a grant proposal)
- > Research in ChemE is incredibly diverse and takes many forms, there is no “one size fits all”. This will look very different in every research group.

Research Impacts: How Can You Help?

- > Faculty: Make every effort to provide your trainees with clear instructions and regular feedback. Social isolation is very challenging for many of our trainees and use Zoom for regular group check-ins. I suggest appointing a 'social chair' if you are occupied with other tasks.
- > Trainees: Make every effort to adapt best practices for at-home work. I know this is the first time for many of you. You can find many resources online or contact us for guidance.
- > Trainees: Closely follow guidance from staff about ordering, supplies, etc.
- > Staff: Continue your great efforts and contributions, now from home. Please be extra understanding of unintentional miscommunications and bring areas of improvement to your supervisors right away

Staff and Operations: More of the Same!

- > Thanks to leadership by ChemE administrator Debbie Carnes, the staff are extremely well prepared for the current moment
- > All staff should have adequate technology solutions, telework arrangements and regular communications with each other
- > Spring tends to be a slightly slower time for grant submissions, and orders should be reduced due to near stoppage of in person research
- > We are awaiting guidance on performance evaluations and other potential impacts

- > You are already going above and beyond and helping so much. Thank you!

Facilities: Benson Hall Is Closed to Almost Everyone

- > Unless you have been designated by Debbie Carnes or me as a "UW Critical Personnel", do not come to campus while the Stay Home, Stay Healthy order is in effect
- > Unless you are an RA/TA, have been designated as CP, and you are 100% willing to come to campus: All students are to remain out of Benson Hall, even if you have a key
- > For students: failure to follow these guidelines constitutes a serious violation of the student conduct code (failure to follow the orders of a University Official). There will be zero tolerance violations and zero exceptions granted.

Additional Resources and Obtaining Support

- > Students: Our understanding is that all students currently have the technology required to fully participate in Spring Quarter. If you or a student you know is in financial need for technology support, please contact the advising staff immediately. There are UW programs for support and we are looking into departmental resources.
 - > Postdocs and RAs: Be in close contact with your PI. Departmental listservs and Slack can be a great way to connect with each other
 - > Staff: Your supervisor and Debbie Carnes
 - > Faculty: Me and Dean Allbritton
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- > Anyone in the ChemE community with COVID-19/coronavirus concerns that are not being addressed to their satisfaction can contact me at any time

Closing Thoughts

- > This is really hard
- > Everyone needs to put extra effort into self-care right now
- > UW wellbeing and mental health services are continuing. Please use them if needed <https://wellbeing.uw.edu/topic/mental-health/>
- > Please join the UW ChemE department wide Slack team (see previous emails or contact us). It is a great way to stay connected (173 members already!)
 - You can run Slack in a browser so you don't even need an extra app
- > Do your best, take extra time to treat each other well, give extra grace when people around you make accidental mistakes and things will be OK

Q&A

- > Submit additional questions via private chat to Lindsey Doermann
- > Q&A responses will be compiled and shared on the department website