



Message from the President

Hill College Family:

Yesterday, the Hill College Board of Regents held a special board meeting in order to receive an update on our COVID-19 preparedness and altered operation efforts. The Board approved a Resolution allowing a delegation of authority and accountability expectations to me, as Hill College President, during the COVID-19 emergency situation. I urge you to review the information regarding COVID-19 that may be found at the Hill College COVID-19 webpage, link: <https://www.hillcollege.edu/Safety/COVID-19.html>.

The Regents and I would like to convey to our employees and students that they are proud of the work and commitment that has been shown during the pandemic.

Hill College understands that these are unprecedented times, and with that being said, listed below are my main objectives:

1. To protect the health and safety of our students and employees
2. To continue assisting our students for the completion of the spring 2020 semester through online and alternative coursework
3. To keep students on track for completion
4. To enable the majority of the College employees to work remotely, while continuing to provide necessary services to our students, with the remainder of our employees working on site; and
5. To retain full-time and part-time employees, reduce turnover, increase morale, and facilitate a prompt future return to normal College operations

A. COLLEGE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE:

My last communication to you indicated that the College would be closed to the public and not reopen until April 6. Due to the increase in COVID-19 cases throughout Texas, the President's extension of the CDC guidelines until April 30, 2020, and Governor Abbott's Executive Order to close public schools until May 4, 2020, Hill College offices will be closed to the public until further notice. Employees who have been deemed as performing essential functions will be notified, approved and scheduled by their supervisors to be on a campus/center.

B. EVENTS:

All college events, on or off campus, have been cancelled through May 15, 2020. This includes, but is not limited to, recruitment events, tours, student programs, performances and commencement.

C. INSTRUCTION:

All Spring 16-week, 2nd 8-week, and dual credit courses will continue to operate through distance education through May 15, 2020. All instruction that can be moved online/remote/distance education should be moved.

Continuing Education courses will continue to be assessed.

We are currently registering for the May mini-mester and summer terms.

D. ONLINE SERVICES

We will continue to provide online services for students, as we are committed to supporting you during this time academically, socially and in all aspects of your educational goals.

1. Academic Advising and Success Center: Your academic advisor and/or success coordinator is available virtually to support and assist you. To “meet” with your advisor, register or ask questions about registration, academics, education plans or accommodations, contact the advising team at advising@hillcollege.edu.
2. Admissions: Our Student Information Services staff wants to do everything they can to help students apply and complete the admission process, request transcripts and complete the graduation process. For more information, contact the staff at sis@hillcollege.edu.
3. Business Office: Please make payments online and communicate through email to the Business Office staff at businessoffice@hillcollege.edu.
4. Financial Aid and Scholarships: Student Information Services staff can discuss your options with you, including any financial hardships or changes in your financial situation. If you haven’t already, we strongly suggest you complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid for the 2020-2021 academic year. We can help you determine what options are available to you through the state and federal government. And, don’t forget to apply for scholarships as well. Our application is online and available until June 1, 2020. Just contact Student Information Services at sis@hillcollege.edu.
5. Tutoring: Hill College offers Smarthinking to all students through Schoology. Smarthinking is an online tutoring service available 24/7 for subjects such as mathematics, biology, chemistry, physics, economics, accounting, statistics, Spanish and writing.
6. Health and Wellness: We know this time can be challenging and we encourage students to make healthy lifestyle choices that support the student’s wellbeing. For resources, please see the Health & Wellness Services web page at: <https://www.hillcollege.edu/Safety/HealthWellness.html>.

Although, we are sailing in uncharted waters, we will get through this together. We will continue to reassess daily. From an instructional standpoint, we want to complete this spring semester, and work with students to enroll in the May mini-mester and summer semesters.

I appreciate the Board’s support and approval of the Resolution regarding various matters associated with the COVID-19 virus. This support is a direct reflection of their love for Hill College and the Hill College family. I could not be prouder of the work that each of you are doing and will continue to do during this COVID-19 altered operation period. Please know that we do not have all of the answers, and we may not get everything 100% correct; however, we are making decisions with compassion and concern for our employees and our students. We will adjust and change course as the circumstances change.

Sincerely,

Pam Boehm, Ed.D.
President