



CISCO COLLEGE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cisco College Begins Fall 2020 Semester With Changes

Cisco / Abilene, Texas - August 25, 2020 - As students return to Cisco College for the Fall 2020 semester, they're going to notice some changes.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the College maintained staffing levels to respond to the need of its students, secure CARES Act funding, and purchase personal protective equipment and supplies for faculty and staff. Over the summer the Cisco College Emergency Operations Taskforce formed two teams to develop plans to safely scale-up the College's operations on both campuses.

The College installed cough and sneeze guards on both campuses as well as created signage with information on how to slow the spread of germs, and encourage faculty, staff, and students to maintain social distance.

These are not the only things that will be different for students this semester. New and returning students will have course options ranging from face-to-face, hybrid, and online. These options put students in control of what type of learning environment will be best for them on an academic level and a comfort level.

College faculty also had say in how classes would be conducted. "We were able to decide if we wanted to conduct our courses face-to-face, online, or hybrid, meaning 50-80% must take place online," said Katie New, Cisco College English Professor.

"I'll be teaching my regularly scheduled online courses, and those won't change," she said. "However, for classes that would normally have been face-to-face, we won't be meeting in-person; instead, we'll meet virtually, live over Zoom during our regular scheduled class time."

This type of remote learning will allow students to get as close as possible to having an in-person experience without the exposure and risk of COVID-19. While there are obstacles and drawbacks, it is a good, compromise solution that keeps both faculty and students safe and healthy.

Students and faculty will work together on ways to conduct class and mitigate the spread. “The student and professor will decide how much of the class is face-to-face and online,” said Dr. Linda Spetter, Professor of English and Communication.

“Also, when we meet face-to-face, we can break the students up into smaller groups and meet at separate times,” she said. “All courses, regardless of format, are built for online completion, just in case local case levels rise to where we are forced to go back to 100% online.”

Some courses and programs require in-person learning for completion. Health and medical programs that require clinical hours will continue regardless of case levels, as long as the clinical facilities and locations allow. Career and technical programs such as welding, automotive, HVAC, and others will find ways around the obstacles such as breaking into smaller groups to complete the hours.

While this is new for everyone and there are surely obstacles ahead, Cisco College has planned and prepared for the Fall semester. Students have returned and more continue to register. The College encourages students, faculty, and staff to follow CDC guidelines and to work together to make this a successful semester.

Students that miss the August 31st registration deadline can still complete a full semester of classes in only 8 weeks starting in October. More information is available at Cisco.edu

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About Cisco College

Since first admitting students in 1940, Cisco College has offered programs and activities intended to encourage lifelong learning and enhance the quality of life in the communities it serves.

As a member of the Texas state system of publicly supported institutions of higher education, Cisco College maintains an open-door admissions policy and provides an array of learning, skill development and life experiences to motivate and challenge students. Classes are offered at two primary locations, Cisco and Abilene, in addition to several other off-campus sites. The College strives to maintain a student/faculty ratio which facilitates close interaction between faculty and students.

Cisco College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award Associate level degrees.