



RE-OPENING HIGHER EDUCATION UPDATE FROM CT INDEPENDENT COLLEGES

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CCIC MEMBER COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

- Albertus Magnus College
- Connecticut College
- Fairfield University
- Goodwin University
- Mitchell College
- Quinnipiac University
- Rensselaer at Hartford
- Sacred Heart University
- Trinity College
- University of Bridgeport
- University of Hartford
- University of New Haven
- University of Saint Joseph
- Wesleyan University
- Yale University

INDEPENDENT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES IN CT

- Awarded 53% of **higher ed** degrees in CT in 2019, compared to 43% awarded by public institutions
- Educate 49% of **students of color** attending 4-year institutions in CT
- Award 71% of **computer science** degrees in the State
- Award 66% of the degrees in the **health professions**
- Award 62% of the **engineering** degrees in the State
- Award 48% of **biological and biomedical** degrees in CT
- **Completion rates** are 10% higher than in public institutions overall; 16% higher for Black students, and 26% higher for LatinX students
- Educate economically challenged students – 24% are **Pell grant recipients**, compared to 31% in public colleges
- Over \$33 B in **total economic impact** annually in the State of CT
- In several cases, these colleges and universities are THE driver of the **economic activity** in the town, and are the **largest employer**
- Over 220,000 graduates of the CCIC schools **reside in CT**

THIS SECTOR IS VITAL TO THE ECONOMIC AND CIVIC FUTURE OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

ALBERTUS MAGNUS COVID-19 EXPERIENCE

Spring 2020:

- Moved to remote learning and remote work beginning March 13
- Resident students moved out and returned home
- Opened housing to City of New Haven for homeless individuals in need of isolation
- Credited or refunded room and board for unused portion of semester
- Rescheduled Class of 2020 Commencement from May to September 2020



ALBERTUS MAGNUS FALL 2020 PLANS

(SUBJECT TO FURTHER REVISION)

- Return to campus for fall 2020 semester, students arriving beginning August 24
 - Adult classes begin August 24; Traditional undergraduate begin August 31
 - Friday before Thanksgiving, students vacate residence halls for remainder of semester
- Combination of face –to- face, hybrid, and online courses for Traditional Aged and Adult Learners
 - Technology investments for classrooms to enable online/synchronous learning
- Residence halls de-densified to ≤ 300 ; quarantine and isolation spaces; physical distancing for classrooms, dining, library, student center, indoor and outdoor public spaces
- Testing:
 - ALL students must bring confirmed negative COVID test from ≤ 7 days before they arrive (will be administered upon arrival if no test results)
 - Random sample testing throughout the semester
 - In-season athletes, coaches, trainers tested weekly
- Students, faculty, staff held to State/Government guidelines and restrictions (PPE, social/physical distancing, contact tracing, mandatory training, campus visitor restrictions)

ALBERTUS MAGNUS COVID FINANCIAL IMPACT

- **Spring 2020 and FY20 Impact:**
 - \$1.2 M in expenses/lost revenues
 - \$550 K in room and board credits and refunds
 - \$120 K in additional expenses (transition costs to online, including new technology; PPE, cleaning costs; campus safety)
 - \$460 K in lost summer and auxiliary revenue
 - CARES Act brought in \$680 K for budget relief
 - Additional expense savings through reductions in operating budgets, position vacancy freezes
 - Applied for SBA Paycheck Protection loan to avoid employee layoffs/furloughs
- **Fall 2020 and FY21 Impact:**
 - Forecasted range of \$3.5- 10 M in additional pandemic-related expenses/lost revenues
 - Consists of revenue shortfalls and additional financial aid expenditures, and COVID-related expenses (cleaning, testing, PPE, new technology, faculty training, facilities de-densifying)
 - Cuts to retirement contributions; potential salary cuts, furloughs/layoffs/voluntary retirements; no employee raises; operating budgets cut; capital (building) investments suspended



QUINNIPIAC COVID-19 EXPERIENCE

Spring 2020:

- Moved to remote learning and remote work March 16, 2020
- Kept students away from community, packed belongings for them to minimize return to campus
- Opened housing for first responders, and engaged in various community efforts
- Over \$200,000 donated to students through QU's Student Care Fund to address COVID-related hardships
- Credited or refunded room and board for unused portion of semester
- Delayed Commencement

QUINNIPIAC FALL 2021 PLANS

- Gradual return to campus with phased drop-off of belongings (Aug. 10-23) and staggered move in (starting Aug. 21)
- Residence halls de-densified, setting aside isolation halls, renting quarantine space, suites treated as family units, physical distancing structured into all classrooms, dining, libraries, public spaces
- Testing:
 - ALL UG students must test before they arrive
 - Repeat testing by university within 6-12 days of UG arrival
 - Then weekly sampling-based testing of UGs living on and off-campus
 - Most student-athletes, coaches, trainers tested weekly
- Classes begin August 24 in Q-Flex format – all classes delivered on-ground, online and with Blackboard tools
- Each classroom outfitted for Zoom delivery
- On-ground semester ends pre-Thanksgiving; last two weeks completed remotely
- Students must follow State restrictions on gatherings, mandatory training, strict PPE guidelines, no visitors in residence halls
- Athletics competition on reduced schedule

QUINNIPIAC COVID FINANCIAL IMPACT

- **Spring 2020 cuts totaled \$23 M** from rapid move to remote learning and work, and shutdown of events:
 - \$17 M in room and board credits and refunds
 - \$1.5 M in transition costs to online, including new technology
 - \$.5 M in addition PPE, packing, cleaning costs
 - \$4 M in lost summer and auxiliary revenue
- Handled through radical reductions in operating expenses, and salary cuts
- CARE Act provided \$2.7 M to institution against \$23 M in costs, and direct pass-through of \$2.7 M to students with hardship
- **Fall 2020 cuts total \$30 M:**
 - \$10 M in COVID-related costs of cleaning, testing, PPEs, new technology, faculty training, facilities retrofitting
 - \$20 M in 1-year enrollment impacts
- Handled through layoffs (faculty and staff = 38), furloughs (2 weeks to 6 months = 130) and reduced contracts; radical operating cuts; frozen positions and salaries; delayed capital programs

HIGHER EDUCATION CHALLENGES

- Tremendous uncertainty, despite outstanding planning, attention and guidance from the State:
 - The virus trend, and safety to open
 - Economic impact on families, and affordability
 - Enrollment uncertainty for reasons of the above
- Challenges in planning for the Fall:
 - Continuing our educational excellence: Hybrid or totally virtual?
 - Continuing research programs?
 - Extent of contagion?
 - Athletics?
- Financials:
 - Added cost of COVID expenses
 - Increased financial aid for students, given economic hardship
 - Potential for significant, potentially catastrophic enrollment, philanthropic, research funding, athletic, event, and other revenue losses

KEY NEEDS FOR CT's PRIVATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES FOR RE-OPENING

1. **Financial assistance**, to help institutions weather the unprecedented financial losses; otherwise some institutions may be crippled for years, or may not survive
 - a. Direct assistance from the State, and in advocating for Federal higher ed assistance
 - b. In the form of low/zero interest loans
2. **COVID test expense coverage**, for the costs of the tests benefiting not just the universities, but also the communities throughout CT to keep them safe. Currently, the State is covering testing only for public institutions
3. **Safe harbor**, to protect private institutions against COVID-related litigation through Fall and Spring of this academic year
 - a. Positive COVID cases will inevitably occur on campuses given their residential nature and close-quarters
 - b. Institutions must adhere to applicable State safety guidelines as a basic requirement
 - c. Assuming they do, recommend 'safe harbor' from COVID-related lawsuits and the unnecessary costs and distraction of litigation (see proposed language)
 - d. Would not protect against gross negligence or willful misconduct

PROPOSED SAFE HARBOR LANGUAGE

“No claim for damages resulting from COVID-19 illness shall be made against a public entity, a religious institution or a corporation that is exempt from federal income taxation under Section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding internal revenue code of the United States, on condition that such public entity, religious institution or tax-exempt corporation substantially complies with any applicable statutes, regulations, guidance, policies or protocols for the prevention of the transmission of COVID-19 issued by the state of Connecticut, or any superseding federal statutes, regulations, guidance, policies or protocols. Such bar to claims for damages shall extend only to claims based on an allegation that the claimant contracted COVID-19 prior to May 21, 2021 and shall not extend to acts or omissions that constitute a crime, fraud, malice, gross negligence, or willful misconduct.”