

1/12/21

Dear CAHNR Faculty and Staff involved in undergraduate instruction,

Happy New Year, and here's to calmer, healthier days ahead...

As we approach the beginning of a new semester, I offer a few items for your consideration:

- *All courses using Distance Learning (DL) and Online modalities will be required to provide Authentication of students taking the course, beginning Spring semester 2021.* This is a federal requirement. Running the course through Husky CT is a key first step in this authentication, and there are additional requirements to choose from. For answers to your questions, please see this excellent summary provided by CETL: [Authentication of Students in Online and Distance Learning Courses | Knowledge Base \(uconn.edu\)](#)
  - It is important to select the methods you will use for student authentication and include these in your syllabus as well as in initial DL/Online class discussions. CETL has provided suggested language to include in your syllabus:
  - *"The University of Connecticut is required to verify the identity of students who participate in distance learning or online courses and to establish that students who register in these courses are the same students who participate in and complete the course activities and assessments and receive academic credit. Verification and authentication of student identity in this course will include [Method 1 and Method 2]."*
  - *CETL has also provided a customizable SYLLABUS TEMPLATE specifically for the Spring 2021 semester. It is definitely worth a good look.* <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1x4Ag-Nl0iJo8SJMzRCjdEqPN3ZKZ6U0KpxbobB6Sqbs/view>
- The Registrar's office has been working diligently to smooth out the student administration hiccups that accompanied the rollout of the Peoplesoft upgrade in December 2020. This will impact those advising students; the look is different, but most of the information you are used to is available once you figure out how to locate it. If you are having difficulties, please contact the Academic Programs office; we still answer the phone (860-486-2919 or 860-486-2920) or email us at [CAHNRAcademics@uconn.edu](mailto:CAHNRAcademics@uconn.edu).
- Some of our students have had difficulty transitioning to distance learning. The following information was provided by UConn's Success 360 Committee to help students stay engaged and connected this spring:
  - **Resources for Students w/ Internet Access Concerns**
  - A link to statewide resources for you to review and share with your advisees if they have concerns with accessing the internet: <https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/Information-For/Internet-Access>
  - **CETL shared a Keep Learning link** when we first went to remote learning, which is continually updated, and has useful information about accessing resources. <https://onlinestudent.uconn.edu/keeplearning/>
  - **ITS will loan students an iPad for an entire semester, if they need a device for taking online courses.** Students may also borrow a laptop for one to two weeks while their current device is repaired or replaced. To initiate a loan, students should submit a general support request at [techsupport.uconn.edu](https://techsupport.uconn.edu).
- CETL is continuing its extensive series of teaching workshops as well as individual troubleshooting appointments (my personal favorite...). Check them out at: [https://fins.uconn.edu/upcoming\\_workshops.php](https://fins.uconn.edu/upcoming_workshops.php). CETL / ITS will also loan instructors iPads and other equipment needed for development of distance learning teaching materials content.

Please let me or one of the CAHNR Academic Programs staff know if we can assist you this semester.

I appreciate your efforts in providing a top-quality educational experience to our students.

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!

Sandy

Sandy Bushmich, Associate Dean for Academic Programs, CAHNR