

Republic of the Philippines  
**CENTRAL LUZON STATE UNIVERSITY**  
Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija

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**POST-ECQ PLAN**

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On 13 April 2020, the Commission on Higher Education issued COVID Advisory No. 6 to guide HEIs in mapping out plans on how to proceed with the current semester, which has been interrupted by the implementation of the quarantine measures meant to curb the spread of COVID-19. The said advisory addresses issues on (1) the delivery of alternative learning modes during the extended enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) period, (2) the extension of the semester for HEIs that are implementing the new academic calendar, (3) the offering of mid-term classes, and (4) the completion of required training hours of students undergoing on-the-job training (OJT) and internship.

The Council of Deans (COD) held a virtual meeting on 15 April 2020 to discuss the latest instructions from CHED that affect the activities of the academic affairs program of the University amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The COD also met online on 31 March 2020 and 1 April 2020 to tackle matters related to the supposed resumption of classes, which was originally scheduled on 15 April 2020.

In these virtual meetings, the members of the council assessed how the crisis is affecting CLSU students and faculty members as well as the readiness of the university in responding to the influx of students for the post-ECQ resumption of classes in terms of availability of resources and capabilities. The following circumstances that need to be taken into consideration when choosing options on how the university should move forward with the current semester were identified:

1. The university has over 10,000 students this semester. Some of these students reside inside the campus. Others live in lodging facilities located in nearby barangays. The rest commute to CLSU from their homes located in the Science City of Muñoz or nearby towns and cities.
2. Due to the suspension of classes on 13 March 2020 and the declaration of ECQ over Luzon on 17 March 2020, many students who reside inside the campus or in nearby lodging facilities went to their hometowns.
3. After the lifting of the ECQ and when classes resume, some students who come from areas with COVID-19 positive cases will return to a dormitory or cottage in CLSU or a lodging house around the university. They may be required to undergo home quarantine for 14 days. Thus, these students will not be able to attend their classes for two weeks.
4. Many of our students live outside the university. They need to be monitored for symptoms related to COVID-19 when they enter the campus.
5. Social distancing will still be required even after the lifting of the ECQ. Unfortunately, the majority of the classrooms and laboratories are not big enough to allow social distancing to be properly observed.

6. Several approaches for the delivery of instruction after the resumption of classes may be implemented, including flexible mode (residential plus online), where students who can come to the classroom will attend face-to-face session while those who can't may participate in the online version. However, although online and other forms of classes meant for remote access may be delivered, many students and some faculty members do not have personal computers or other suitable gadgets and/or reliable access to the internet. Thus, these students and faculty members may not be able to participate in or conduct such classes.
7. The COVID-19 pandemic may have caused emotional distress and anxiety among many of our students. The situation calls for compassion.
8. There are programs with courses that are scheduled to be offered during the Mid-Term.

In view of the foregoing, the COD respectfully recommends the following options:

1. **Academic Calendar.** The university shall end the semester on 30 April 2020. This action is expected to help ease the distress and anxiety being experienced by the students. It will also enable the university to focus on preparations for the opening of the next academic year amid the threat of COVID-19, rather than on the management of the influx of thousands of returning students. Some of these students may come from areas with COVID-19 positive cases.

The CHED COVID Advisory No. 6 states that "HEIs that are using the new academic calendar are authorized to extend their semester. . ." The COD interprets this as non-mandatory. Thus, this proposal may be considered as not inconsistent with the CHED directive.

The council also believes that although the faculty members are ready, as always, to teach the students, it may be too early to welcome back thousands of students from different parts of the country. The public health concerns associated with the post-ECQ resumption of classes (e.g. implementation of social distancing in the classroom) will be very difficult for the academic affairs program of the university to handle. The university also needs more time to prepare to offer classes, especially in-campus classes, in the time of COVID-19.

- a. Classes and other school activities, including those conducted through online platforms and other alternative modes of delivery, shall remain suspended until 30 April 2020.
  - b. No more residential (in-campus) or face-to-face classes and activities for the current semester shall be conducted after 30 April 2020.
  - c. Students will generally not be allowed to enter the university from 1 May 2020 until the enrollment period for the 1st semester of SY 2020-2021 or until further notice.
2. **Grades.** Students shall be given "**No Grade.**" No student shall be given a grade of "INC" or considered as unofficially dropped.
    - a. Faculty members shall submit the report of grades on or before 15 June 2020.

- b. Numerical passing grades shall eventually be given to the students upon completion of the requirement(s) prescribed by the faculty member handling the course and reviewed by the concerned department chair and dean.
  - c. Regular faculty members must inform the students of the prescribed course requirement(s) on or before 30 May 2020. Students in courses handled by JO/part-time faculty members shall be informed about the requirements by the department chairs on or before the aforementioned date.
  - d. Faculty members should exercise leniency in prescribing requirement(s) and giving numerical grades to the students. The OVPAA shall issue guidelines in setting requirements and computation of grades.
  - e. Students may complete the course requirement(s) up to 15 June 2021.
  - f. A student who fails to complete the course requirement(s) within the prescribed period shall be given a grade of “D” (Dropped).
  - g. Students with “No Grade” in a prerequisite of another course shall be allowed to enroll in the latter course.
  - h. The outputs of the students undergoing OJT, internship or similar training program shall be evaluated as to the level of competency gained before the ECQ. Those who demonstrated the minimum level of competency shall be given passing grades as appropriate.
  - i. Thesis students (or those enrolled in a similar degree requirement) whose work is still in progress shall be given a grade of “IP.”
  - j. The INC and 4.0 grades incurred during the 2nd Semester, SY 2018-2019 may be removed until the 1st Semester, SY 2020-2021.
3. **Mid-Term 2020.** Mid-term classes will be offered to enable graduating students to complete their thesis, practicum, internship, OJT or similar degree requirements. The regular course to be taken by College of Agriculture students shall also be offered, although holding of classes shall be deferred until such time that social distancing and other safety measures can be properly implemented.

The offering of other regular courses scheduled for Mid-Term 2020 shall also be deferred. These courses shall be offered during the 1st and 2nd semesters of SY 2020-2021.

- a. All graduating students this semester will be asked to enroll during the midterm to complete all requirements for graduation, including thesis, dissertation, field practice, practicum, and OJT.
4. **Post-ECQ Work of Faculty and Staff.** The university should map out plans for maintaining skeletal workforce in the various offices, should this be an option after the ECQ has been lifted. Heads of offices should identify personnel in their respective units who perform essential functions. A schedule of when they will report for work should also be prepared.