

**Emporia State University
House Appropriations Committee Testimony
March 11, 2021**

**Allison D. Garrett
President, Emporia State University**

Did the University cancel or discontinue classes in Spring 2020, Summer 2020, Fall 2020 or Spring 2021?

Spring 2020: Emporia State canceled the first week of classes following spring break (March 16-20, 2020) to allow faculty to transition classes to remote delivery. These missed days were the equivalent to “snow days.” All classes resumed Monday, March 23, 2020 through remote delivery.

For Summer 2020, Fall 2020 and Spring 2021, all classes were delivered as a combination of in-person, hybrid or online.

Fall 2020:

In-person: 73%

Hybrid: 21%

Online: 6%

Spring 2021:

In-person: 77%

Hybrid: 17%

Online: 6%

What proportion of classes were in-person, online and hybrid for Summer 2020? How and when were students notified of their course delivery?

In normal years, the majority (65%) of summer classes at Emporia State are delivered online.

On April 7, 2020, all students were notified by email that 100% of classes in the first half of Summer 2020 (May 11-June 26, 2020) would be offered online.

On May 27, 2020, all students were notified that for the second half of Summer 2020 (beginning June 29, 2020), most classes would be online except for 12 classes that would be offered in person. These were primarily science classes that required hands-on lab work.

All of these changes to class delivery also were reflected in the online course catalog used by students when selecting classes.

What proportion of classes were in-person, online and hybrid for Fall 2020? How and when were students notified of their course delivery?

During Fall 2020, the undergraduate class delivery mix was 73% in-person, 21% moved to hybrid (some in-person and some online) and 6% moved to online, primarily because of faculty health issues.

On June 18, 2020, students were emailed about the fall semester. This included information that faculty were working to create classes that would allow flexibility for change and effective use of technology.

What proportion of classes are in-person, online and hybrid for Spring 2021? How and when were students notified of their course delivery?

During Spring 2021, the undergraduate class delivery mix was 77% in-person, 17% moved to hybrid (some in-person and some online) and 6% moved to online, primarily because of faculty health issues.

All information about course delivery for Spring 2021 was included in the course catalog. This information was available to students on October 7, 2020, one week before enrollment opened.

How were campus facilities evaluated for class delivery and what steps did the university take to meet either state or local county in-person guidelines?

Staff in University Facilities and the campus architect toured all classrooms and learning commons to determine the new maximum capacities based on six feet of social distance between people. The rooms were then reset with the maximum number of desks or furniture allowed.

Emporia State's emergency manager participates in Lyon County's emergency operations center meetings about COVID and is in the campus planning group. He made sure the campus was aware of city- and county-imposed gathering limits, mask mandates, and any other information that impacted campus operations.

As a side note, Emporia State enacted the first wide-scale mask mandate in Lyon County. The City of Emporia passed a mask mandate on August 5, 2020. Lyon County followed on November 4, 2020.

What were Lyon County gathering limits? Summer 2020, Fall 2020, Spring 2021?

Summer 2020:

- 15 or fewer;
- moved to 45 or fewer on June 4

Fall 2020:

- 45 or fewer;
- moved to 2,000-person limit both inside and outside in clusters of up to 10 people socially distant from other groups (September 17, 2020);
- back to 45 or fewer with larger gatherings allowed in consultation with public health and approved mitigation plan (November 4, 2020)

Spring 2021:

- 45 or fewer with larger gatherings allowed in consultation with public health and approved mitigation plan (next action scheduled for March 11)

How did the university deliver courses to students who were quarantined or isolated? How did the university handle situations when faculty were quarantined or they had to isolate?

Faculty were asked to plan classes for in-person and online flexibility in order to allow courses to easily accommodate student and faculty needs as they related to various COVID scenarios.

ESU implemented a system for students to request academic adjustments which allowed them to take courses online:

- Students at high-risk for COVID complications based on CDC guidelines, who lived with someone at high risk, or who could not return to the country for classes were granted academic adjustments for the full semester.
- Students who had to isolate or quarantine during the semester also could request an academic adjustment that lasted the length of the isolation or quarantine.

Faculty also could request to change their class delivery from in-person to online if they were considered high risk for COVID complications based on CDC guidelines or lived with someone who was considered high risk. Only 6% of undergraduate classes moved to online for this reason.

In case of short-term changes to class delivery caused by faculty isolation or quarantine, faculty would notify the class of the change to the course's delivery mode.

What were the university's refund policies for tuition? Did you adjust the dates when a student can seek a tuition refund in Summer 2020, Fall 2020 or Spring 2021?

Because there were no changes in the length of the semesters, the University's refund policies were not altered. ESU's refund policy is:

Students will receive a 100% refund of tuition and fees for classes dropped through the 10th day of class. There is no refund for classes that are dropped on the 11th day of class through the end of the semester. For short-term classes taught in less than the regular semester, the 100% refund period will follow the policy on dropping a class. The official drop period shall be determined by the Registrar's Office.

How much did the University receive and spend from federal COVID-19 funds?

See table attached.

Define course modalities.

Emporia State University defines three course modalities:

- In-person covers courses where 75% or more of the class instruction is offered in person (i.e., face-to-face).
- Online refers to courses where 75% or more of the class instruction is delivered online.
- Hybrid is a third, general term that describes any course that falls in-between by combining both in-person and online instruction. For example, our library science graduate program is hybrid. Classes are online but students come together one weekend per month for in-person classes.

Changes in course delivery brought about by COVID saw the following mix of course offerings:

Fall 2020:

In-person: 73%

Hybrid: 21%

Online: 6%

Spring 2021:

In-person: 77%

Hybrid: 17%

Online: 6%

Are students who take an online course charged a different tuition rate or do they have different fees than in-person courses? Do you have additional costs to recover for delivering an online course?

The charge per credit hour for tuition is the same for online and in-person courses. The difference is that for undergraduate students taking at least 10 on-campus hours, tuition is capped whereas undergraduate students taking primarily online courses pay per credit hour. Students were not penalized for, and continued to receive, flat-rate tuition for undergraduate courses that shifted online due to COVID-19.

All graduate students pay per credit hour regardless of modality. Non-resident students who take only online courses pay 150% of the in-state rate. Campus-based, non-resident students taking in-person courses are charged the non-resident rate.

As for fees, online and in-person fees are the same except that online courses have an additional \$30 per course fee. If an in-person course changed to online in this pandemic environment, students were not charged this \$30 course fee. Also, like tuition, for undergraduate students taking at least 10 on-campus hours, fees are capped whereas undergraduate students taking primarily online courses pay per credit hour for fees.

There are significant expenses associated with online learning, which requires a secure, highly resilient, and digitally accessible environment for students, the faculty, and the support staff maintaining the university's operations. Additional expenses cover training to assure faculty are familiarized with the many tools available for effective online teaching.

Were students charged an online fee if the course modality changed?

No.

February 28, 2021

[illegible]