

Fall Semester Announcement FAQs

Updated: August 4, 2020

HEALTH AND SAFETY

What steps is the College taking to ensure student and faculty safety for on-site instruction in the hybrid model?

The College is partnering with Penn Medicine/Lancaster General Health to provide oversight to our health and safety planning. Masks, risk screening, and social distancing are required for all individuals on campus. In addition to the plan limiting the number of people on our campuses at any given time, the campus is not open to outside groups or events. Each lab and shop area has been surveyed with an outside architecture firm, along with the faculty, to discuss and design a layout in the shops that will ensure social distancing to the greatest extent possible, and to identify other ways to minimize risk when closer proximity is required between an instructor and student. This may include a mask along with a face shield, a physical barrier and other mitigation.

Will there be changes to cleaning the classrooms and labs? Will students or faculty be responsible for any cleaning?

New electrostatic sprayers will be placed on an aggressive deep cleaning schedule in accordance with CDC guidelines. College staff will continue to proactively clean and disinfect.

Some participation will be needed, and expected, from all groups in their immediate areas.

The campus has been vacant for several months. What has the college done with the HVAC systems to ensure a safe return to campus?

All preventive maintenance will be completed on all buildings, including filter changes, ACIA completed all. Fogging of all campuses with bio shield two applications, and water testing is completed. Ongoing maintenance of systems as necessary will be ongoing.

ACADEMICS

Will Fall '20 semester technical programs be distance education (online)?

Some programs and classes will be offered 100% online, while other programs will be offered via a blended approach (on campus and distance education). This blended approach includes a rich mixture of hands-on learning in a laboratory/shop setting (~60%) and online learning via a distance education approach (~40%). Thaddeus Stevens College is dedicated to providing students a quality education in the safest manner possible and in accordance with the CDC

guidelines for higher education. To address the CDC and PDE requirements and recommendations a hybrid schedule was developed to lessen the number of individuals on campus at the same time, while still providing ample opportunity to participate in hands-on learning for the majority of the technical programs offered at Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology.

The seven computer and/or engineering based technical programs that will be 100% online during the fall '20 semester are: Architectural Technology, Business Administration, Computer & Networking Systems Administration, Computer Software Engineering Technology, Engineering CAD Technology, Graphics Communications & Printing Technology, and Mechanical Engineering Technology.

What Academic Support and Tutoring Services are available to me during the Fall 20 semester?

The TSCT Academic Center, located on the third floor of the LRC, provides academic services and resources to help students achieve academic success. During fall 2020 these services are available online via Zoom or by phone per student request. [Click here](#) to view more about services offered.

How will I find out what my personal schedule is?

Final schedules will be posted on your portal by August 1.

Returning students should check their new shop times against any conflicts with previously registered gen-ed classes and adjust gen-eds accordingly. Please keep commuting time in mind as well.

Freshman students have been registered for the appropriate general education courses and classes in their major. We encourage you to monitor your schedule closely through the coming weeks as course details (days/times) have the potential to change.

When is the first day of classes for the Fall 20 semester?

Monday, August 24, 2020

When is the last day of classes for the Fall 20 semester?

Wednesday, December 16, 2020

Will there be times within the semester that classes will not be in session?

Yes, please refer to the revised Fall 20 academic calendar posted on the portal.

How will I get my text books?

The College has partnered with the HACC bookstore to provide books to our students. Students may view and purchase their books online at by clicking [here](#). The link is also available on the My.Stevens portal. HACC is offering free shipping of books for this fall semester. Students on the Stevens Grant will have their books provided to them by the college. Grant students that begin their instruction in person on August 24 will be able to pick their books up on campus. Grant students that begin their instruction online on August 24 will have their books shipped to them by the College.

How will I attend my academic classes if they are online?

General Education courses will be taught during the days and times on your schedule. In the days prior to classes beginning on August 24th, you will receive communication from each of your instructors on how the first class will occur and what that process will be. Your attendance is required in all general education courses, so it is expected that all students confirm the virtual location of their classes before the day classes begin. Please expect communication be sent to your campus issued email by Wednesday, August 19th on your virtual location for each general education course. In the event you do not receive any communication from one of your instructors, please contact the Dean of Academic Affairs, Michael DeGroft for assistance. degroft@stevenscollege.edu.

HOUSING AND DINING

When will I find out about housing? Can I choose a roommate?

All campus housing will be one student per room to provide maximum social distancing. Students who have been notified of their acceptance with confirmed housing, and students who have been notified of their acceptance with waitlist housing will be provided housing *if they are enrolled in one of the 17 majors that will be on campus for part of the fall semester*.

THE PROGRAM COHORTS ON-CAMPUS AUGUST 24 TO OCTOBER 6. Campus housing will be provided during the first 7 weeks of the semester (August 24 to October 6) for the on-campus program cohorts listed immediately below.

- Automotive Technology (AUTO) ****SOPHOMORES****
- Cabinetmaking & Wood Technology (CABM) ****SOPHOMORES****
- Carpentry Technology (CARP) ****SOPHOMORES****
- Carpentry Technology (CARP) ****FRESHMEN Section W (Noel)****
- Collision Repair Technology (CORT) ****SOPHOMORES****
- Computer Integrated Machining (CIM) ****SOPHOMORES****
- Electrical Technology (ELEC) ****SOPHOMORES (Bube)****
- Electrical Technology (ELEC) ****FRESHMEN (Jacobs)****
- Electro-Mechanical Technology (ELME) ****SOPHOMORES****
- Electronic Engineering Technology (EET) ****SOPHOMORES****
- Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning-Refrigeration (HVAC) ****SOPHOMORES****
- Masonry Construction Technology (MASN) ****SOPHOMORES****
- Metal Fabrication & Welding Technology (MFWT) ****SOPHOMORES****
- Metalcasting Technology & Manufacturing Management (MTMM) ****SOPHOMORES****
- Plumbing Technology (PLBG) ****SOPHOMORES****
- Residential Remodeling Technology (RMDL) ****SOPHOMORES****
- Water & Environmental Technology (WET) ****SOPHOMORES****
- Welding Technology (WELD) ****SOPHOMORES****

THE PROGRAM COHORTS ON-CAMPUS OCTOBER 12 TO NOV 24. Campus housing will be provided during the second 7 weeks of the semester (October 12 to November 24) for the on-campus program cohorts listed immediately below.

- Automotive Technology (AUTO) ****FRESHMEN****

- Cabinetmaking & Wood Technology (CABM) **FRESHMEN**
- Carpentry Technology (CARP) **FRESHMEN Section N (Draper)**
- Collision Repair Technology (CORT) **FRESHMEN**
- Computer Integrated Machining (CIM) **FRESHMEN**
- Electrical Construction Maintenance (ECM) **FRESHMEN**
- Electrical Technology (ELEC) **FRESHMEN Section B (Kramer)**
- Electrical Technology (ELEC) **SOPHOMORE Section B (Kochan)**
- Electro-Mechanical Technology (ELME) **FRESHMEN**
- Electronic Engineering Technology (EET) **FRESHMEN**
- Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning-Refrigeration (HVAC) **FRESHMEN**
- Masonry Construction Technology (MASN) **FRESHMEN**
- Metal Fabrication & Welding Technology (MFWT) **FRESHMEN**
- Plumbing Technology (PLBG) **FRESHMEN**
- Residential Remodeling Technology (RMDL) **FRESHMEN**
- Water & Environmental Technology (WET) **FRESHMEN**
- Welding Technology (WELD) **FRESHMEN**

What changes have been made to meal plans for the fall 2020 semester?

During the fall 2020 semester, Meal Plans are only available to students with classes on campus during their assigned 7 weeks. See the meal plan requirement breakdown below:

- Stevens Grant Resident students are assigned a 7-Day Meal Plan
- Stevens Grant Commuter students are assigned a 5-Day Meal Plan
- Non-Grant Resident students are assigned a 5-Day Meal Plan with the option of increasing to a 7-Day Meal Plan
- Non-Grant Commuters have the option to purchase a 5-Day Meal Plan

Are there any other changes or restrictions related to housing for the fall 2020 semester?

While campus housing is viewed as an important part of the college experience for many students, this year students will be asked to follow some restrictions. For example, students will be asked to limit the personal belongings to what is essential for comfortably living away from home. In the event that the COVID-19 pandemic requires a change in our operating status – i.e. a period of full distance learning due to circumstances in the community – residential students will be asked to take their dorm belongings home with them when they leave the campus. While the College does not anticipate this will happen, this decision may be made by local, state, or federal directive depending on the state of the pandemic.

TECHNOLOGY

What do I do if I don't have a laptop or can't get Wi-Fi access where I live?

Students who do not have a computer or cannot access the internet should complete the [Technology Request Form \(click here\)](#). The college will review each request and do its best to meet students' essential technology needs for their program and general education courses. Please note that completing the form does not guarantee the college can meet your request.

Will the College help students learn how to use the platform an instructor may choose for a class – for example, Zoom, Teams, or the Portal “Learning Management System?”

The primary platforms that will be used by the college for coursework are Microsoft Teams, Jenzabar Learning Management System and Zoom.

[Instructions for Zoom \(click here\)](#) are posted on the homepage of the myStevens portal and students will experience utilizing this platform during orientation. Instructions for using Microsoft Teams and the Jenzabar LMS will be posted prior to the start of school.

Students with technical questions or who are in need of technical support should fill out the [IT Support Form \(click here\)](#) which can also be found on the my.stevenscollege.edu home page.

ATHLETICS

What are the College’s plans for athletics for the 2020/2021 academic year?

Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology is cancelling the fall athletic season due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This decision is aligned with NJCAA Region XIX guidelines, as well as College safety guidelines which are based on CDC and DOH protocols.

Can a student attend the College and not play this year, but return to the team in the fall 2021 without consequences?

Yes, students may decide to wait until the College can provide a normal season of play to return to the team. The impact could be to students who desire to play at a four-year college after their time at TSCT, which would be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

FINANCIAL

Are there considerations for financial aid with the fall 20 plans that the College announced?

The Financial Aid Office is working closely with the Business Office to update accounts. Any changes in financial aid eligibility as a result of the fall schedule will be reflected on your account by July 31, 2020. You will receive an email once your account is updated.

When is fall semester tuition due?

The College is currently calculating invoices for our freshmen and sophomore students for Fall 2020. The College offers the below payment plan for the fall:

*Total Semester Charges minus Total Semester Awarded Financial Aid = Total Semester Cost
Fall Semester 2020*

First Payment = 1/3 of Total Fall Semester Cost – Due 30 Days from date of 1st invoice

Second Payment = 1/3 of Total Fall Semester Cost – Due September 18, 2020

Third Payment = 1/3 of Total Fall Semester Cost – Due October 26, 2020

What is the cost breakdown for the fall semester?

FALL 2020 SEMESTER CHARGES		
Tuition - Full-Time (12+ Credits)	\$	4,200.00
Room	\$	1,030.00
5-Day Meal Plan	\$	760.00
7-Day Meal Plan	\$	960.00

COMMUNITY SERVICE:**Will Stevens Grant awardees be required to complete community service hours for the Fall 2020 semester?**

The college is waiving the community service requirement for Stevens Grant awardees for Fall 2020 semester.

If I have already completed community service hours for the Fall 2020 semester will they count?

If you were able to complete your 10 hour community service requirement after May 15, 2020 and will be on the Stevens Grant in Spring 2021, those hours can count toward your spring requirement. Please provide documentation to Ms. Valdijah Brown at brownv@stevenscollege.edu.

If I am a Stevens Grant student, and am learning remotely at the start of the Fall 2020 semester, how will I get my text books?

Stevens Grant students who will start the semester with remote learning will have their text books mailed directly to the home address they provided the College. The text books will arrive the week of August 17.

If I am a Stevens Grant student, and will start the Fall 2020 semester on campus, how will I get my text books?

If you are a Stevens Grant student who will begin the Fall semester on campus, you will receive your books when you report to campus.

EMPLOYEES:

What resources are available to me if my child's school or child care provider is closed (or unavailable) for reasons related to COVID-19?"

Employees are able to use two weeks (up to 80 hours) of paid sick leave at two-thirds the employee's regular rate of pay because the employee is unable to work because of a bona fide need to care for an individual subject to quarantine (pursuant to Federal, State, or local government order or advice of a health care provider), or to care for a child (under 18 years of age) whose school or child care provider is closed or unavailable for reasons related to COVID-19, and/or the employee is experiencing a substantially similar condition as specified by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Secretaries of the Treasury and Labor.

Where can I learn more about the Families First Coronavirus Response Act?

You can read the full FAQs by clicking the following link:

<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/pandemic/ffcra-questions#70>

Are staff eligible to receive hazard pay (from the COVID-19 Hazard Pay Grant)?

Staff at Thaddeus Stevens College are not eligible to receive hazard pay. Because Thaddeus Stevens College is a public employer, we are not an eligible applicant (Business, Healthcare nonprofit, Public Transportation agency, or a certified economic development organization) for the grant funds.