

1. COMMENCEMENT 2021 – PLANNING TIMELINE

The following timeline was prepared by the Commencement Committee. There are two student representatives on the committee this year. They will also participate on the workgroup to develop the graduate survey.

Alternatives being considered – all dependent on what “phase” we are in and the feedback from students: Commencement Parade, “Commencement Week” which would include small in-person (socially distanced) program ceremonies, Virtual Ceremony on June 12 (in conjunction with other options). The committee will also create a plan for the “worst case scenario” of returning to Phase I at that time.

January 7

The feedback survey will be distributed to students.

January 21

Survey will close.

January 25-February 5

The survey results will be compiled, and the responses analyzed and prepared for the committee.

No later than February 19th ***

The committee will review the results, alter plans as possible in accordance with the feedback received, and rank the plans according to student preference

March 29th (the first day of Spring term)

The final decision will be made, the commencement homepage will be updated and an email will be sent to campus.

April 7th:

The President, Provost, & Registrar will host a town hall discussion about the upcoming ceremony.

2. COVID Contact Tracing

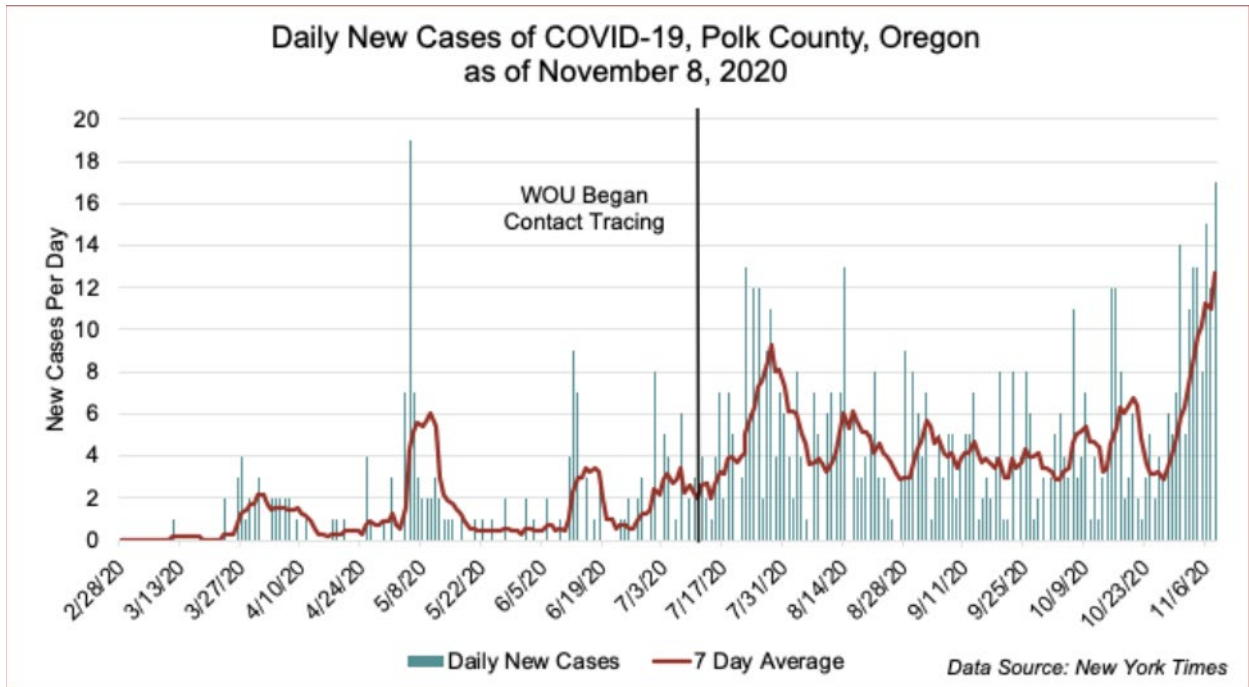
Dr. Megan Patton-Lopez and Dr. Emily Vala-Haynes, professors in Community Health, continue to lead our student contact tracing team in partnership with Oregon Health Authority and Polk County Health helping keep our community safe. This is cutting-edge, hands-on, high-leverage learning and is a model for how our academic programs at Western can engage in real-world challenges and issues.

An excerpt from the most recent report shows:

Current Persons Under Monitoring (PUMs): 151 (last week 94)

Cumulative Cases Numbers
Oregon: 49,587
Polk: 766
Marion: 6,685
United States: 9,763,730
Global: 50,030,121

Rankings
Polk: 16th (last week: 23rd)
Marion: 8th (last week: 9th)



3. COVID Testing

We are developing a plan for COVID testing for winter term. It will include testing of students returning to campus and also will include testing options for WOU employees. WOUFT and SEIU have been consulted regarding employee testing and the priorities will include:

Priority groups:

- a) Frontline employees who are required to be on campus in person (custodial, student health center, dining, residential staff and student workers such as RAs) .
- b) Faculty holding any in-person instruction (labs, performance, office hours, etc.) and faculty/staff whose communication needs or disabilities may entail likelihood of in person contact in order to perform work (Deaf/Blind, for instance).

4. Fall 2020 Enrollment Update

Our 4th week census shows the University down 7.9% in FTE enrollment. COVID 19 has had an impact not only on new and transfer students, but also our continuing students. While our admitted freshmen numbers were flat prior to announcing on-line classes in the fall, headcounts of our new freshmen are down approximately 7%. Transfer students are down approximately 13%. Continuing students are also down approximately 7%. One population in particular, International students, is down 56% compared to last year and have been declining significantly over the last several years.

Reports we have from other colleges and universities in the area are similar. Chemeketa is down 9%. This is concerning for Fall '21 given that Chemeketa is our largest transfer student feeder. Chemeketa has also been experiencing a declining enrollment for several years which has an impact on WOU. Oregon State is reporting down 5% for campus-based students, but up in their e-campus. The University of Oregon is reporting being down 3%, and Portland State is reporting being down 7%.

One highlight in all of this is that we continue to increase our Latinx presence on campus. We went from 18.6% in 2019 to 19.6% this year. Overall, the diversity percentage of our campus remained the same.

5. Fall 2021 Recruitment Update

Fall 2021 recruitment has started off very slowly. Applications and admitted student numbers are down from last year. We have implemented several strategies to increase applications and, in-turn, admitted students. For example, waiving the application fee until September 2021.

We have also allowed students to initially self-report their GPA on the admissions application. Previously we required a high school transcript as a part of the application process. In our COVID world, we were finding that students were challenged to get a copy of their high school transcript given the on-line learning modality.

Additionally, we have a weekly cross-divisional group meeting to identify strategies we can implement to increase our application pool. Admissions established approved protocols and started offering in-person tours on November 2 (subject to OHA guidelines).