

## **SUNY COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY**

**Submitted: 2 November 2020**

### **Campus Departure Policy - Fall 2020**

This policy is developed pursuant to the 25 October 2020 issuance of the “SUNY Testing Policy for Departing Campus in Fall 2020” by Chancellor Jim Malatras.

This policy developed for the SUNY College of Optometry community is designed to support the intent of the October 25<sup>th</sup> policy while recognizing the unique character of our campus as a health professions-centered institution.

#### **Key points for policy development:**

- The SUNY College of Optometry operates 12 months/52 weeks a year as it includes an Article 28 Diagnostic and Treatment Center providing eye and vision care throughout the year.
- The College has no housing. All students commute from within the city or the greater metropolitan area, and there are no food services available on campus.
- Most faculty and staff are on 12-month contracts and come to campus unless requesting vacation leave or have approval for telecommuting.
- The campus is fully open to all students for study, practice in the teaching laboratories and other services year-round.
- Only students enrolled in the first three years of the doctor of optometry (OD) program have a break (defined as the cessation of in-person instruction) during the time between Thanksgiving and the start of the Spring Semester on January 4<sup>th</sup>. The last day of in-person teaching laboratories and clinical field placements and the return dates for these three classes are:
  - 1<sup>st</sup>-year OD students: November 24, 2020 – January 4, 2021
  - 2<sup>nd</sup>-year OD students: November 24, 2020 – January 4, 2021
  - 3<sup>rd</sup>-year OD students: December 8, 2020 – January 4, 2021
- Other Students, including the final (4<sup>th</sup>) year OD students who are assigned to full-time clinical field work, residents, and PhD students who are in the research laboratories through the holiday period, do not depart from the campus.

#### **Departure from Campus:**

Campus Testing Plan for “extended departures” and non-departures:

1. The first three years of the Doctor of Optometry program do “depart” from the campus as defined by the October 25<sup>th</sup>, SUNY Testing Policy. These students undergo mandatory pooled-testing within ten days of their departure, allowing 3 days for the results to be delivered prior to departure. The testing schedule will be:
  - a. November 16 – 17: All 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>-year OD students will be pool-tested. In-person completion date is November 24<sup>th</sup>.

- b. December 1 – 5: All 3<sup>rd</sup>- year OD students will be pool-tested. In-person completion date is December 8<sup>th</sup>.
2. All faculty, staff, residents, and remaining students, will continue to be tested under the College's Surveillance (Pooled) Testing Policy. If vacation time is requested and includes travel out of NYS, the College's Travel and Guidance Policy will apply.

Surveillance (Pooled) Testing Policy: <https://www.sunyopt.edu/pdfs/covid-19/SUNY-Optometry.Surveillance-Testing-Plan-9.24.20.pdf>

Travel & Guidance Policy: <https://www.sunyopt.edu/pdfs/covid-19/Travel-Guidance-and-Policy.pdf>

**Return to Campus for those students classified as “extended departure”:**

The Spring Semester will begin on January 4<sup>th</sup>. Those students enrolled in the first three years of the OD program are required to:

1. Be tested for SARS-CoV-2 infection (PCR or rapid antigen test) within three days prior to their return to campus – this is the responsibility of the student. Note - students will not be permitted on campus without a negative test result.
2. Submit the results of that test to the Office of Student Affairs, who will monitor compliance.
  - a. Note: Anyone with a positive finding will be guided by the College's COVID Coordinator, Cris Gomez, RN, and follow the protocols outlined in the College's October 1, Ramp-Up Plan.
3. Be pool tested on campus the week following the start of the spring semester.

After pool testing these returning students, the College will resume the normal Surveillance (Pooled) Testing Plan for the balance of the spring semester.

**Compliance:**

Any failure to comply with this policy will be considered a violation of the *SUNY Uniform Disciplinary Sanction Policy, Section VI – Failure to Comply with Campus Health Protocols*.  
<https://www.sunyopt.edu/pdfs/covid-19/MEMO-Uniform-Sanctions-in-Response-to-COVID-19-Student-Violations-10.25.20.pdf>