Instruction and Services Move Online in Response to COVID-19

Like most colleges in Washington state and many throughout the country, Olympic College moved the majority of its instructional programs and services online in response to COVID-19. The college converted hundreds of courses for online delivery, while Student Services created virtual Zoom lobbies for departments across the board. IT scaled up the availability of devices for check-out to students and employees, while strengthening Wi-Fi signals in parking lots. Custodial services rose to the challenge by increasing the frequency of cleaning high-traffic areas for those programs that remained in-person. As a result, Olympic College was able to continue serving the community without interruption.

Nursing Students Partner with Community to Combat Pandemic

Students from Olympic College nursing programs are collaborating with the Kitsap Public Health District and the Kitsap County Emergency Operations Center to support access to, and resources for COVID-19 testing, flu shots at local food banks, and contact tracing in our community. Nursing students are conducting contact tracing, which allows them to earn hours toward their clinical requirements, while helping to identify community members who may have been exposed to COVID-19. The college is also partnering to provide drive-through COVID-19 testing at our Bremerton and Poulsbo campuses. Nursing students are helping staff the drive-through testing locations at Olympic College.

Olympic College Supports the Workforce During COVID-19 with Strategic In-Person Instruction

While most instruction and services moved online due to COVID-19, Olympic College also had the daunting task of continuing to offer in-person instruction in programs that are vital to the workforce. With one of the larger nursing programs in the state, it was critical that students who were on track to graduate were able to do so. The largest employer in Kitsap County — Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility — has an ongoing need for skilled workers in fields like welding and precision machining, as do other employers. The college has successfully and safely offered in-person instruction allowing these skilled workers can stay on track in their programs.