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Subject: Provost's Notes: Week 3
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Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Good afternoon! Welcome to February *and* to Week 3! There's a lot to share, so let's dive right in:

CLINIC APPROVED AS VACCINATION SITE

First on everyone's mind is the question of when we will get the vaccine. We don't know that, but as Dr. Higdon wrote in yesterday's *Notes*, Equality Healthcare (our health clinic on the Springfield campus) has been granted approval as a vaccination site by the State. As a reminder, if you have an opportunity to register for the vaccine from another provider, please do so.

DOUBLE MASKS

With the new, more contagious variants of COVID-19 circulating, some have asked whether OTC will require employees and students to wear double-masks. As of now, the CDC has not made this a recommendation. If it does, we will follow that guidance. In the meantime, if you feel more comfortable doubling up, by all means please do so.

COMMENCEMENT PLANS

Last week I shared our plans to hold two in-person Commencement ceremonies. Those ceremonies will be held at **3 p.m.** and **6:30 p.m.** on **Wednesday, May 19** at JQH Arena. You'll hear more about which ceremony you should attend in the coming weeks. For now, save the date.

COLLEGE DEVELOPMENT DAY ON 2/16

We're looking forward to College Development Day on February 16. It will be virtual this year and will feature one of my favorite events, our annual Showcase that morning. Then at 2 p.m., our [second annual Innovation Celebration](#) begins. A few details about Innovation Celebration:

- Participation is required for all full-time employees.
- This event will be streamed live on OTC's YouTube channel as a private, online event. The link will be shared in advance.
- You will need a computer or cell phone to both view and participate in this interactive event, including voting and recording attendance.
- Supervisors, if you have employees who do not have an assigned OTC computer and need assistance setting up on-campus participation, please contact Greyson Foresee at foreseeg@otc.edu by Wednesday, February 10 to make the necessary arrangements. This must be arranged in advance.
- If any employee require accommodations to fully participate in this event, they should contact Jeff Jones at jonesj@otc.edu no later than Wednesday, February 10 for personal assistance. He will be working with folks on an individual basis to overcome any personal challenges to participating.

COLLEGE DEVELOPMENT DAY ON 4/1

Activities on this date will also be virtual, and participation of full-time employees is again mandatory. The schedule is still being finalized, but you'll receive more information within the next couple of weeks.

UPDATE ON ALLIED HEALTH/HEALTH SCIENCES

We've got a couple of big changes coming to the Allied Health division:

- First, you may have read that the Allied Health division will be renamed **Health Sciences** as of July 1. The new name came about after discussion with some Allied Health faculty and staff about the future of the division – and fun fact: The term “Allied Health” does not typically encompass nursing, which is obviously a big part of OTC. We decided that it's time for an updated name that reflects the full array of healthcare education we offer.
- Also, Dr. Sherry Taylor will retire on March 31 as Dean of Allied Health. We will plan to celebrate with a masked, socially-distant retirement reception for Dr. Taylor sometime this spring. So in addition to the name change, we'll be posting soon for a Dean of Health Sciences to fill the vacancy Dr. Taylor leaves behind.

CONDENSED/COMPRESSED TERMS

I had the pleasure of visiting with Faculty Senate last week, and one of the topics was an update on OTC's move to more A- and B-block courses. For those new to the conversation, research indicates that students experience greater success in courses that are offered in a more concentrated time frame. A task force will be formed soon to study this topic and the factors affecting implementation of a more robust schedule of A- and B-block offerings at OTC.

On the Academic Affairs website, there is now a page dedicated to recommended reading on compressed term lengths and student success. I shared some of these sources with you in December, but this page lists additional sources as well: <https://academics.otc.edu/8week/>

Also, the Research office has provided us with data on course pass rates in highest-enrollment classes by term length for Fall 2017 – Spring 2020:

Course Pass Rate

Course Length	14WK		16WK		ABLK		BBLK	
CourseName	Percent with a Passing Grade	Course Enrollments	Percent with a Passing Grade	Course Enrollments	Percent with a Passing Grade	Course Enrollments	Percent with a Passing Grade	Course Enrollments
ENG-101	60.0%	140	69.8%	8424	72.5%	407	61.6%	404
PSY-110	70.4%	504	79.8%	6733	86.8%	129	74.8%	365
PLS-101	66.9%	402	79.0%	6200	90.1%	232	77.7%	373
COM-105	65.3%	72	73.4%	6127	100.0%	2	62.7%	67
MTH-130			60.3%	5544			50.0%	4
ENG-102	93.3%	15	78.9%	4698	82.7%	139	69.9%	412
BIO-100	74.8%	202	82.9%	4201				
CIS-101	84.2%	19	77.6%	3582	84.5%	219	71.9%	406
MTH-128	59.3%	27	55.9%	4099			72.2%	18
HST-120	62.0%	137	75.7%	3545	88.9%	108	68.0%	269
OTC-101	68.7%	265	79.1%	3576	86.7%	60	73.6%	53
CHM-101	66.7%	9	79.1%	3404				
SOC-101	64.1%	128	85.2%	2913	87.7%	57	84.7%	274
BCS-132			72.3%	2881			72.3%	393
BCS-165			76.4%	3099	89.2%	111		
HLT-101			82.9%	2684	91.1%	190	86.3%	240
COM-100	59.1%	115	70.8%	2323				
BUS-110	70.7%	198	77.9%	1934			75.3%	259
MTH-110	41.2%	102	51.8%	2273	100.0%	11		
REL-100	66.1%	112	80.5%	1858	79.2%	96	59.2%	157
ENG-100			60.3%	2134				
PSY-130	69.0%	226	87.7%	1590	84.6%	26	76.0%	279

You will notice that A-block results are generally higher than any other term length, but that results may dip with B-block. There are a couple of possible reasons for this: 1) B-block courses are likely to be taken along with other term-length courses, which defeats the purpose of students being able to focus on a limited number of subjects at a time, and 2) enrollments in B-block classes are more likely to be students who initially attempted a 16 week course then dropped, rather than an intentional choice.

If you have any questions – *any questions at all* – please drop me a line. Have a great week!

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