



PRESS RELEASE

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COLLEGE ADMISSION CHANGES AMID THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK

Standardized testing for college admission has been affected by the outbreak of Covid-19, including Advanced Placement (AP) exams that students take each May. AP exams will now be hosted online, and students will be able to test from home if their high schools are not open during the revised testing dates, which span from May 11 to May 22. Exams have been reduced from more than 3 hours to just 45 minutes, and they no longer include a multiple choice portion.

Trevor Packer, senior vice president for the Advanced Placement Program and instruction, tweeted recently that "We're investing so that every AP student impacted by COVID-19 has the tools and connectivity they need to review AP content online and take the exam from home." Cabrina Noonan, College and Career Counselor at Ritenour High School, agrees that the College Board has attempted to provide support for under-resourced students, by making technology and WIFI available to students who may not have it. However, she worries that school communities are not able to reach every student who is registered for the exam, especially those in challenging learning environments.

University of Missouri St. Louis partners with area high schools to provide dual credit through the Advanced Credit Program taking the unprecedented step of reopening registration for students to obtain dual credit instead of taking the new online AP exam this spring. "UMSL decided to allow this after we had been contacted by several schools asking if we could. They had students who were concerned that they may not do as well on the exams because they had been moved online. There were also concerns that the AP credit may not transfer in the same way because the tests have been shortened. It was the least we could do to help relieve some of the stress our high school students are under during this time," says Dr. Kathleen Burns, assistant dean and director of the Advanced Credit Program at UMSL. Although the cost of

taking a course for dual credit is more expensive than the AP exam, Dr. Burns believes that dual credit offers a greater likelihood of receiving college credit. Jennifer Kottman, testing coordinator for Rockwood Summit High School in Fenton, iterates, “This is an individual decision and can vary depending on the college policies at the institutions where students plan to attend.” Some colleges may not accept dual credit while others might be changing their AP credit awarding policies from the exams given this spring.

The Missouri Association for College Admission Counseling (MOACAC) is a non-profit state affiliate of the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC). We represent more than 700 members across the state.

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