

SUPPORTING STUDENTS' SUCCESSFUL RETURN TO CAMPUS

Recommendations from SSRI Student Advisory Board – Spring 2021

The mission of the Student Success & Retention Innovation (SSRI) Student Advisory Board (SAB) is to put students first through open discussion of initiatives that aim to help students be successful. SSRI's SAB members, UArizona undergraduates familiar with SSRI programming, meet regularly with the SSRI Strategy Team to provide a student perspective to help guide decision making. In the first meeting of the spring, SAB discussed the transition into Stage 2 of the University's plan to return to campus, and provided some guidelines for how we can continue to provide student support.

ATTITUDE TOWARD TRANSITION

"Excited but Skeptical"

Students reported feeling fairly confident about the transition back to in-person courses corresponding with the start of Stage 2 of the Campus Reentry Plan, though there is still some hesitation. Despite the excitement around returning to a more normal routine, students stressed that it remains important to take into consideration students who may not feel comfortable being on campus or can not return at this point.

Factors Increasing Confidence

- Testing protocols - more accessible tests and continued testing requirements
- Encouraging data - Lower levels of transmission shown in the COVID data dashboards
- Progress towards vaccination, especially of faculty and staff

Concerns with Transition

- Though transmission levels are lower, the overall number of cases remains high. Some students are skeptical that the situation is safe enough to return to campus.
- There is concern about whether those returning to campus will know and follow COVID protocols, both staff and other students.
- Increased number of people on campus in all areas, not just classrooms.

STRATEGIES FOR CONTINUED STUDENT SUPPORT

Given the concerns students may have about returning to campus to access SSRI services, what can we do to ease their transition in the return to campus and increase confidence? We can best support students through the spring as the subsequent re-entry stages are announced by following the UArizona COVID protocols for return to campus, and modeling that behavior.

- **Continued remote support** - online options continue into the foreseeable future to increase accessibility to support services and programming. There was some concern that remote options will disappear as staff and faculty gradually return to campus.
- **Create a "culture of cooperation"** – Students want to see that we *all* are taking COVID protocols seriously and working together to mitigate cases
 - Everyone wearing masks, and encouraging others to follow guidelines as well
 - Everyone doing their part in cleaning and sanitizing
 - Visible signage and guidelines posted in all buildings about protocols and expectations for everyone
- **Modifications to layout and structure**
 - Have fewer chairs available to encourage physical distancing
 - For in-person sessions, limit to small groups or one-on-one
 - Appointment-based only so that students know there will not be a crowd