

OFFICE  
AND STUDY

ATIONAL PROGRAMS

# RESOURCES HANDBOOK

UTEP'S EMERGENCY RESPONSE

## STUDENT EMERGENCY FUND

Supporting our students during this critical time is our top priority. UTEP has created a [Student Emergency Fund](#) to help students in these very uncertain times. Funds can be used for emergency travel, unexpected expenses related to food, transportation, and access to necessary resources for remote learning. For more info about this resource, please click [here](#).

## UNIVERSITY BOOKSTORE

The University Bookstore has set up several policy changes including FREE eBook access, free shipping, and deadline extensions to help ease the financial burden of the crisis and to promote reading and learning during isolation/quarantine. For more information, please visit the [University Bookstore](#).

## HOUSING AND RESIDENTIAL CLOSURES

UTEP has been taking measures to ensure the safety of our students, staff, and faculty as the City of El Paso issued an ordinance to slow the spread of the COVID-19 outbreak. In accordance with UT System guidance, students living in on-campus housing were asked to check out, with few exceptions. These exceptions included international students whose home country had closed their borders, or students who did not have suitable alternative housing.

### We Need Your Feedback

1. How did you handle the relocation?
2. How are you coping with online instruction?

Please let us know by sending an email to [bevera@utep.edu](mailto:bevera@utep.edu)

## COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES HAVE BEEN POSTPONED

In accordance with the guidance of The UT System, UTEP has postponed this spring's Commencement ceremonies.

Graduating students will receive their degrees as scheduled, but the ceremonies have tentatively been rescheduled to the fall. More details will be announced as soon as that decision is made.

The decision follows CDC recommendations for large gatherings. For more information, please click [here](#).

## ONLINE COURSES: HOW TO SERVE OUR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS?

We know that as an international student you may have concerns, especially if you return home to complete your courses online.

Below are a few suggestions from international students that have been shared with UTEP professors to help them prepare for online instruction. We hope they assist you in communicating any anxieties or concerns with your instructors.

- International students who went home would rather be in your class.
- Their families, governments, or exchange programs are recalling them.
- They are experiencing culture shock and returning to a home very different than the one they left. For many it is a dream cut short.
- They may be in forced home or governmental quarantine for a period of time where they may not have access to internet.
- They may be joining online courses or advising appointments in the middle of the night (their time), where they may share a room with family who are sleeping. Consider making assessments available for a 24 hours periods of time.
- If the mode of instruction will increase spontaneous written response in online discussion, they may be writing with an accent without the opportunity to check

their own writing. As we typically allow people to speak with an accent, consider that in spontaneous writing.

- Some websites are not readily available in all countries but may be accessed through VPN, such as Google products, Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube. WeChat may also work.
- We have told students to reach out to you about their concerns and technology limitations for their courses to help you in your planning.
- The students are anxious. There is a lot of pressure on them to do well. We continuously remind them to reach out to you to talk about their concerns and limitations.

## **DHS UPDATES**

**URGENT TRAVEL ADVISORY:** The Department of Homeland Security is restricting non-essential travel across the U.S.-Canada and U.S.-Mexico borders. The announcement





of museums and landmarks around the world. You can find more information, including a list of weekly activities, [here](#).

- [The Science of Well-Being](#) is offering a FREE online course called "The Science of Well-Being". For more information, click [here](#).
- **Let There Be Rock** is a performance-based music school in El Paso. Since this crisis happened, they have opened ONLINE courses for people of all ages that want to learn music instruction remotely. This is not just a great opportunity to learn from renowned professionals, but also a great chance to support a local business. For more information, click [here](#).
- Renowned Los Angeles-based dance studio **Fit and Bendy** is offering online fitness, stretching, and dance classes from some of the most prestigious instructors and performers in the U.S. It's a great way to stay active and healthy! Visit them [here](#) for more information.

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## AND FINALLY...

These are unique and unprecedented times. While there is no humor in the human tragedy that is unfolding, keeping one's good humor in trying times is important. No matter what, we will see the light at the end of this tunnel soon enough!

Keep your spirits up :)

