



## United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION  
Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute  
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Office of the President

### MEMORANDUM

**Date:** November 12, 2020

**To:** SIPI Staff, Students, Regents and Partners

**From:** On behalf of  
Dr. Sherry Allison, President

**Subject:** 2021 Spring trimester

I trust each of you are staying safe and healthy as we continue our fight against COVID-19. Please do your part to ensure the safety and wellbeing of yourself and your loved ones. The purpose of this memorandum is to share plans for the upcoming Spring 2021 trimester (January 6, 2021- April 20, 2021).

The Spring 2021 trimester is rapidly approaching and unfortunately we are experiencing an increase in COVID-19 cases nationally. We must proceed with extreme caution to protect the wellbeing of everyone. As emphasized in prior trimesters, the safety and well-being of our entire campus community is of highest priority for the SIPI administration and Board of Regents.

Following are plans for the Spring 2021 trimester at SIPI:

1. **Course format:** Classes will continue to be delivered online with a limitation of hybrid delivery for two programs (#2 below).
2. **Hybrid format:** To accommodate students who require hands on learning to either graduate or demonstrate academic progress, we will offer a hybrid format. We estimate no more than 30 participating students from the Vision Care and Natural Resources programs who will attend onsite classes offered the last 3 weeks of the trimester. Still in the planning process, we are discussing options to assist these students with off campus housing, transportation and meals. To address safety concerns caused by COVID-19, we will ensure all needed learning spaces are appropriately modified prior to return of students. Again, hybrid classes will be limited to certain students from the Vision Care and Natural Resources programs; please contact Dr. Milford Muskett, Chair, Advance Technology Education at [milford.muskett@bie.edu](mailto:milford.muskett@bie.edu).
3. **Student Fees:** There will be no charge to attend SIPI for the Spring 2021 trimester. SIPI does not charge tuition and all student fees will be waived.
4. **Laptops/hotspots:** A laptop and/or hotspot will be provided to new/readmit students requesting/needing these items for online classes. Students must request a laptop and/or hotspot by submitting the student intake form located on the SIPI website. Information will be placed on the SIPI website and SIPI's official Facebook page.

5. **Residential halls:** Both residential halls will continue to be closed.
6. **Closed campus:** Due to health and safety concerns, the SIPI campus remains closed until further notice. The majority of employees are on telework status with the exception of a minimal number of essential employees, e.g. IT, Facilities and Security, who remain on campus to ensure critical functions are addressed. Only those individuals with legitimate business and prior approval are allowed on campus. SIPI Security will continue to monitor the front entrance.
7. **Student support services:** All student support services, including orientation, tutoring and academic coaching, will continue via an online format. Students may contact Dr. Cecelia Cometsevah at [Cecelia.Cometsevah@bie.edu](mailto:Cecelia.Cometsevah@bie.edu).
8. **Financial Aid:** In adherence to all regulations, students will continue to receive services without interruption. The Veterans Administration has allowed SIPI the use of online services through December 21, 2021. The U.S. Department of Education has extended flexibility in the delivery of online courses through December 31, 2020 or the trimester that includes the end date of the Federally-declared emergency related to COVID-19. Contact Melynda Mitchell at [Melynda.Mitchell@bie.edu](mailto:Melynda.Mitchell@bie.edu) or Gloria Mariano at [Gloria.Mariano@bie.edu](mailto:Gloria.Mariano@bie.edu).
9. **2021 Spring Trimester Admission and Registration:**
  - a. **Admission for New and Readmit Students only:** Application deadline is December 11, 2020, with no extensions.
  - b. **Registration for Continuing Students only:** Continuing students are students who attended SIPI during the Fall 2020 trimesters and plan to return for Spring 2021. These students:
    - i. do not need to reapply for admission into SIPI;
    - ii. must register for classes with their advisors; and
    - iii. can participate in Spring 2021 pre-registration, November 30 – December 4, 2020.
  - c. The last day to register for classes is January 5, 2021, no extensions. Please contact Rhonda Platero ([Rhonda.Platero@bie.edu](mailto:Rhonda.Platero@bie.edu)), (505) 382-4287, for more information.
10. **HiSet/High School Equivalency Offerings (Limited Enrollment):** Contact Jim Snyder at [James.Snyder@bie.edu](mailto:James.Snyder@bie.edu).
11. **Important Dates:** For your reference, attached is the 2020-2021 Academic Calendar.

Although the campus is closed, the Indian Health Service dental clinic located on the SIPI campus continues to provide dental services. Our staff will continue to telework and when public health conditions improve, staff will begin transitioning back to campus in phases.

I wish you the very best and I pray you and your love ones are kept safe and out of harm's way. If you have any questions, I may be reached by email at [Sherry.Allison@bie.edu](mailto:Sherry.Allison@bie.edu). Please refer to the SIPI website, [www.sipi.edu](http://www.sipi.edu), for additional information, or visit our official Facebook page. Your continued commitment and support of our students and the SIPI community is sincerely appreciated.

Attachment: 2020-21 Academic Calendar