



FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY



FHSU begins weekly COVID-19 testing

A Fort Hays State University COVID-19 re-entry testing program that coincided with the re-opening of campus for the fall semester finished in August. Beginning the week of Sept. 21, a new COVID-19 surveillance testing program began. This new testing program for asymptomatic members of the campus community will supplement the ongoing symptomatic testing available in the Student Health Center.

The primary goal of the surveillance testing program is to monitor the prevalence of COVID-19 among the on-campus community. FHSU's Critical Incident Policy Group (CIPG) led the effort to develop the new program after receiving input from university constituencies and local healthcare partners.

The surveillance testing program will sample a small number of individuals within a campus cohort. If a member of the cohort tests positive, the university will expand testing as appropriate. It typically takes a day to process each saliva test kit. Groups designated as a cohort are subject to change, but currently include the following:

- Residents in university housing
- Athletic teams
- Faculty and students in on-campus classes
- Employees in departments who are in frequent contact with members of the campus community and public

Employees who are in frequent contact as a group Testing is voluntary and based on self-collected saliva specimen kits. Surveillance testing will continue into December.

Federal grant driving expansion of mental health services

Last spring, FHSU's Pathway to Help, Hope and Success initiative was awarded a prestigious Garrett Lee Smith Campus Suicide Prevention Grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Under this grant program, the university matches \$264,561 in annual federal funding per year over a three-year period. The arrival of the grant funding came at a critical time, as COVID-19 began forcing students and faculty to transition to remote learning and find ways to deal with the significant pandemic-driven academic, social, financial and mental and physical health challenges.

The Kelly Center used grant funding to hire a case manager to provide personal counseling services, attend mental health-related trainings and create and implement programming that raises awareness of suicide on college campuses. The Kelly Center provides personal counseling, alcohol and drug counseling, accessibility services to address necessary academic accommodations, peer tutoring for general education courses and standardized testing services. By the end of the academic year, the Kelly Center was able to significantly expand the number of personal counseling sessions from approximately 3,000 in 2019 to more than 4,000 in 2020. For the first time, the Kelly Center was able to extend psychoeducational services available to all students enrolled at FHSU.

More information about the Kelly Center can be found at [FHSU.edu/kellycenter](https://www.fhsu.edu/kellycenter)

New Advanced Educational Program focuses on digital leadership

COVID-19 fundamentally changed education in America. Digital literacy, the ability to leverage powerful learning technologies, is now an essential proficiency for teachers, administrators and learning technologists. Beginning spring semester 2021, Fort Hays State University's Department of Advanced Educational Programs will welcome its first class of rising educators and education administrators to a new Specialist in Education (Ed.S.) postgraduate program with a concentration in Digital Leadership.

This program is designed to develop leaders with the digital technology skills essential to transforming an educational organization's digital culture. Graduates of the program will be prepared to create or pursue professional opportunities and advance their careers in the role of a digital technology leader. Key areas of program focus include teaching, instructional design, informatics and learning technologies. This fully online program will be primarily offered via a series of flexible 4-week, one credit hour courses in the fall, spring and summer.

FHSU's new Ed. S. program with a focus on digital leadership program represents yet another expansion in the University's commitment to offering innovative, challenging and affordable programs that keep FHSU-trained education professionals on the cutting edge of innovation in teaching and leadership.

FHSU responding to the need for social work professionals in Southwestern Kansas

This year, FHSU launched the only online Master of Social Work program in Kansas, and immediately filled enrollment. The students currently enrolled in FHSU's online undergraduate and graduate programs represent 25 Kansas counties and seven states.

Fall 2020 Enrollment Summary

Bachelor of Social Work Enrollment

Off-Site Cohort*	27
On-Campus	28
Online	25

Master of Social Work Enrollment

Online	54
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Many of the students enrolled in the two programs either currently work or plan to work in critical-need fields, including child welfare,

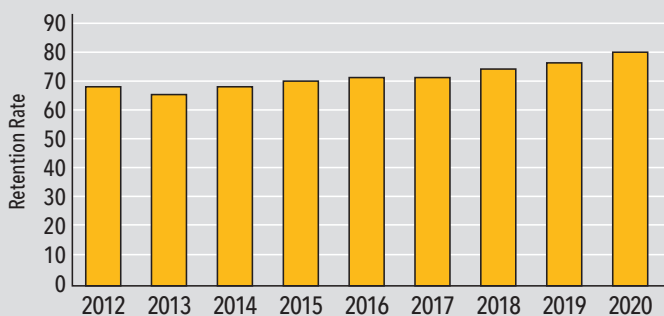
medicine and health education, K-12 and family education and services, mental health and substance abuse and juvenile court and probation services.

The first class of MSW students will graduate next May. The university is now looking to expand enrollment capacity further. We want to thank the Kansas Legislature for the appropriation that enables FHSU to train more social work professionals and serve Kansans in need.

**Off-site cohort programs are delivered in partnership with Colby Community College, Garden City Community College, Dodge City Community College and Seward County Community College.*

Did you know?

FIRST-YEAR FRESHMEN RETENTION RATE (FALL TO FALL) REACHES AN ALL-TIME HIGH



Freshman retention rate is a prime indicator that FHSU is successfully integrating new students into campus life, providing the support new students often need. The retention rate also serves as a measure of student satisfaction with their college choice.



**FORT HAYS STATE
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