

## Connecticut College's COVID-19-Informed Policy for Off-Campus Learning Activities during Fall 2020

Many of our students participate in community engagement and other off-campus learning opportunities with faculty, staff, and community partners as part of their education at Connecticut College. These are important activities, both for the student and the local community, and we want to do as much as we can to support these activities at all times. Given the global pandemic, the college has made the decision to prioritize remote engagement opportunities to continue this important work with our community partners for Fall 2020 while also protecting the health and safety of campus and community members. *Thus, the default position at the College will be remote community engagement in Fall 2020.* All offices that support off-campus learning (e.g., Hale Career Center, Walter Commons, Holleran Center) look forward to working with students, staff, and faculty to support meaningful remote engagements for Fall 2020.

To maintain critical in-person community partnership work during these challenging times, we have developed a limited approval process for high impact, well-supervised, and low risk in-person community engagements (see [Petition for In-Person Exception for Connecticut College Sponsored Fall 2020 Off-Campus Learning](#)). *Please note that in-person engagement in the off-campus community will be the exception to the rule and all such activities must be proposed and approved prior to their undertaking through a petition process.* Importantly, no in-person community engagement will be allowed in the first 3 weeks of the Fall semester.

Petitions for in-person, off-campus, community learning more likely to be approved will be for activities that are outdoors or contactless, offer a benefit to the local community, and involve scrupulous adherence to public health guidelines. Other in-person activities may be allowed on a case-by-case basis, if there is a compelling rationale and adequate safety precautions can be followed. At this point, no indoor academic community engagement activities for students will be approved.

For this purpose of this policy, academic community engagement that is college-sponsored includes community engagement associated with any academic experience at the college including community learning courses, a work-study job, global-local engagement, major, minor, pathway, or certificate requirements, and community-based research.

Off-campus jobs that are not work-study jobs and volunteering that is not associated with educational requirements at the college are considered independent activities, NOT college-sponsored activities, and do not require a petition. The college still requires you to abide by the Camels Care Pledge and all local and state public health guidelines in such independent activities. *Importantly, only college sponsored and approved off-campus engagement activities can be used to satisfy requirements of majors, centers, pathways, and the Connections Program.* Off-campus housing and all related policies are administered by the Office of Residential Education and Living (REAL) and are not covered by this policy.

When petitioning for approval for course-related off-campus learning, please know that no in-person, off-campus activity can be a required element of a course, unless there is an alternative activity that students can do on-campus or remotely. Additionally, class field trips will be limited to outdoor sites within walking distance, since transportation of large groups of students is not feasible at this point. *If the field trip is on campus (e.g., Arboretum), it does not require a petition.*

This policy does not cover community partners coming to campus. Please refer to the COVID-19 Policy for Guests on Campus for guidance on this.

When approved, transportation to an in-person, off-campus site in a campus vehicle must be limited to 2 students (not including the driver). Students may transport only themselves in their own car (no passengers) to an approved off-campus learning activity.

All petition approvals will be made in the context of public health conditions at the time of approval and may be suspended if campus or community transmission rates worsen. To participate in an approved in-person, off-campus community engagement activity individuals must be designated as “clear” in the Co-verified app on the day of the activity, and be willing to share their Co-verified status with College faculty and staff, including student staff, and community supervisors.

The approval process will be led by the Holleran Center due to the prioritization of community impact in the petition process, with other offices consulted as appropriate. For alignment of policy across divisions, decisions will be reviewed by representatives appointed by the Deans of Student Life, the College, and the Faculty. Questions about this policy or about the petition process may be directed to [hollerancc@conncoll.edu](mailto:hollerancc@conncoll.edu).

All students participating in approved in-person, off-campus community learning activities must sign the Fall 2020 Off-Campus Engagement Waiver which asks students to initial key elements of this policy as well as the Camels Care Pledge and its application to any off-campus learning experience.

### **Some Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ):**

#### **1. Can students engage in off-campus work or learning this semester?**

The vast majority of college-sponsored off-campus learning experiences will be remote in Fall 2020. Members of the campus community may petition for approval of specific in-person, off-campus learning activities, with limited approvals possible for outdoor, contactless activities that prioritize positive public impact, and the health and safety of campus and community members.

#### **2. Who do I contact for assistance with finding *meaningful remote career or educational off-campus opportunities and resources* or *exploring approval of an in-person experience*?**

- a. For engagement with the local community and for community learning courses, contact the Holleran Center

- b. For global opportunities contact the Walter Commons
- c. For career-related opportunities contact the Hale Center

**3. What is my responsibility when engaging in *any type of off-campus career or educational off-campus work, volunteering, or internship (in-person or remote)*?**

- a. Students will read and sign the Fall 2020 Off-Campus Engagement Waiver.
- b. Members of the campus community will register any career or educational off-campus engagements with the office responsible for supervising such engagements (see above).
- c. Members of the campus community will follow all relevant campus, placement organization, and local/state COVID-19 guidelines while engaged in remote or in-person off-campus engagement.
- d. No in-person, off-campus community learning will take place without explicit approval through the Petition for In-Person Exception for Connecticut College Sponsored Fall 2020 Off-Campus Learning process.