



Statement Regarding Student Needs During and in the Aftermath of the COVID Crisis

In these unprecedented times students are experiencing a multitude of consequences resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. We are faced with rapid unforeseeable changes to our daily lives and communities. COVID-19 continues to disproportionately impact communities of color contributing to poor physical and mental health outcomes. As we continue to push through a state of depleted personal and material resources, it is important to highlight institutional responses and fast operational changes taking place that impact students, including designating students as "essential employees." In addition to the psychological distress that this pandemic has inflicted, many students are now facing housing and food insecurity, loss of loved ones, deterioration of their own physical health, and loss of emotional supports. Many graduate students have had to continue reporting in-person to internship sites without access to protective equipment or the ability to do telehealth from the safety of their homes. Many have also lost their clinical internship placements, jeopardizing their graduations for up to 2 years, ability to accrue clinical hours, and primary source of income. These negative experiences are further exacerbated by levels of otherness and marginalization that disproportionately impact students of color, undocumented status, and of low-income backgrounds. NLPA urges institutions in positions of power (Universities, APA, APPIC, CoA, and licensing boards) to demonstrate their commitment to students by implementing policies that address these immediate and foreseeable concerns, providing supports for students, and holding institutions and training sites accountable for their adherence to APPIC and CDC guidelines.

This statement was developed by the Student Committee and approved by the Leadership Council.