

Northern Marianas College
WSUC Updates
As of December 4, 2018

1) Regular updates on the status of the college;

A. Super Typhoon Yutu Recovery Efforts:

- a. The Northern Marianas College has been diligent in recovery efforts since Super Typhoon Yutu and activated the immediate removal of hazardous debris from the NMC campus to ensure safety of students and personnel, the salvaging of capital items and properties, and an inventory and assessment of facilities and property.
- b. A Student Resource Center was opened at the Olympio T. Borja Library (on campus) with access to computers with internet connectivity. Project PROA Navigators and Counselors were on site to assist students with accessing online disaster applications for Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA), American Red Cross and Small Business Administration (SBA) disaster assistance.
- c. Federal agencies and state agencies were ready to provide support and assistance to students, faculty and staff and this included FEMA representatives who were available to take face-to-face application processing and provide one-to-one assistance to our students, faculty, and staff on November 09, and SBA representatives on site to provide assistance to students, faculty, and staff on November 20.
- a. An NMC hotline was developed to provide immediate responses to inquiries from students and the general public on campus services. The Office for Learning and Support Services and the Office of Student Activities and Leadership took lead in responding to general questions and made immediate referrals as necessary for others.
- b. Programs and departments whose offices were destroyed by Supertyphoon Yutu were relocated to other buildings so they can continue offering services to NMC students:
 - a. Building K – All program leaders, Office of Student Activities and Leadership
 - b. Building N – Office of Admissions and Records, Finance Department, Informational Technology, Testing Center, Office of Institutional Advancement
 - c. Building O – Borja Library, Archives, Project PROA Tutoring and Mentoring Services
 - d. Building P – Executive Offices, Community Development Institute, Human Resource Office, Counseling Department
 - e. As buildings are repaired or replaced, various programs, offices, and academic courses will return back to the main campus at As Terlaje.
- c. On November 23rd, NMC hosted two Student Information Sessions at the American Memorial Park to respond to general questions and to present critical information to students, parents, and the general public. Topics presented included the following:
 - a. Adjusted Academic Calendar
 - b. Campus Cleanup
 - c. Alternative Site (Saipan Southern High School) Campus Information
 - d. Student Support Services
- d. NMC has categorized the reopening of classes for Fall 2018 into blocked schedules with two staggered start dates.
 - a. Block One Schedule - Start Date: Dec. 03 through February 09.
 - Due to the unavailability of and limitation of available and conducive facilities on island, the CNMI Public School System offered the NMC the use of its high school campus at Saipan Southern High School (SSHS) for the hours of 1pm to 9pm Monday through Friday. As such,

all NMC courses that were scheduled to begin at 1pm or later and all Saturday courses were assigned to be offered at the SSSH campus in a Block One Schedule format. These afternoon, evening, and Saturday courses began on December 3, 2018 at SSSH. Saipan Southern High was selected as the venue as it meets the classroom space needed to run all NMC courses in the first block schedule and would only be utilized by the high school for only the first half of each day; 7am to 12 noon.

- b. Block Two Schedule - Start Date: Tentatively set for January 07 through February 09.
 - All courses scheduled to run anytime between 7AM and 12 noon were placed in the Block Two Schedule. These courses along with all Hybrid and Online courses are set to resume on January 7, 2019 at various alternative sites. Hybrid and Online courses are set in the Block Two Schedule to allow more time for electricity to be restored to homes.
 - Additionally, there are pre-approved afternoon and evening courses which will also begin at this time.
 - The CNMI Public School System will run their regular student courses during the 7 to 12 noon hours, therefore, none of their campus facilities are available for this purpose so NMC is in the process of identifying other “alternative sites”. There are currently nine alternative sites that are being considered for the Block Two Schedule.
- c. For both Block Schedules:
 - NMC’s Student Success Team, tutors/mentors, student leadership will be available onsite Monday to Friday from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm
 - NMC’s Financial Aid and Admissions and Records representatives will be available onsite on Tuesday and Thursday from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm
 - NMC was provided approval to utilize SSSH Library and a classroom for tutoring, and mental, emotional, grief, and PTSD counseling.
- d. The alternative sites for Block Two Schedule will be used until the NMC campus buildings are deemed safe to be re-opened.
- e. The NMC Leadership continues working with FEMA to secure temporary classroom structures that will be placed on the As Terlaje main campus. NMC is expected to receive 24 of these structures. Once these structures are constructed, the intention is to move all classes back to the campus at As Terlaje. The anticipated time of arrival for these structures is at the end of January or the first part of February.

2) Particularly, your plans to resume instruction and, more broadly, educational delivery to students;

A complete review of each class was made by program leaders to identify the number of pending hours required to ensure that classes meet WSCUC credit hour requirements. It was determined that the college needed a total of six instructional weeks and 1 week for final exams that were lost due to Super Typhoon Yutu.

NMC has decided to stagger the resumption of classes due to availability of alternative sites. Most evening and Saturday classes (see attachment for schedule) will be held at CNMI’s Public School System, specifically, at Saipan Southern High School. Morning courses and pre-identified evening classes will be held at additional sites yet to be determined. Please see the identified dates and plan of action below:

Evening and Saturday classes		
Location	Date	Week
Saipan Southern High School (all other classes)	December 3 – December 7, 2018	One
Commonwealth Health Corporation (Nursing classes)	December 10 – December 15, 2018	Two
	January 7 - January 12, 2019	Three
	January 14 – January 19, 2019	Four
	January 21 – January 26, 2019	Five
	January 28 – February 2, 2019	Six
	February 4 – February 9, 2019	Seven

*The final five weeks is a proposed schedule and is subject to change.

The contact hours for Block Two courses were assessed as well. With thorough evaluation of contact hours showed that an additional 25 minutes would be needed for the institution to meet required contact time and simultaneously complete the semester with Block One.

Morning, Pre-approved Evening, Online, and Hybrid classes		
Possible locations *	Date	Week
Mango Six (1 st floor)	January 7 – January 12, 2019	
Sablan Building	January 14 – January 19, 2019	
Joeten Dai Dai Social Hall	January 21 – January 26, 2019	
Garapan Building	January 28 – February 2, 2019	
Marianas Baptist Academy	February 4 – February 9, 2019	
MSV Taekwondo		
Marianas Plaza		
Former IBPC Building (1 st and 2 nd Floor)		

*Sites will be aligned with specific class and student needs. This is a proposed schedule and is subject to change.

3) Regular updates on that educational delivery, until we are all comfortable that NMC will be able to comply with its credit hour and program length policy this fall and, otherwise, be in compliance with WSCUC Standards;

All educational delivery will remain the same as originally offered. Calculations of all contact hours has been completed hence the revised class schedule as approved by the Board of Regents.

4) Finally, plans to attend to NMC’s title IV obligations including expeditious disbursements to students;

To comply with title IV obligations, NMC faculty report all students for non-attendance within the first two weeks of each semester. Student names marked as absent in the initial two weeks of classes are forwarded to the Early Intervention Counselors. Results from outreach efforts determine approaches required such as enrollment status. Students absent in the first two weeks of instruction are given a grade of “UW”. Super Typhoon Yutu occurred on the ninth week of instruction; therefore, allowing applicants access to funding if found eligible.

NMC disbursed FAFSA Batch One refunds the week of November 19 – 21, 2018. The Financial Aid Office has completed its input for Batch Two on December 3rd. All applications have been forwarded to the Finance Department to draw down funds. All refunds for Batch two are anticipated to begin distribution by the week of December 10-14, 2018.

5) Or course, if NMC is not able to resume instruction and meet program expectations this fall WSCUC would need to be notified; NMC would, in this case, provide plans for complying with title IV obligations and for resuming college activities in spring 2019.

NMC has full intentions to complete its Fall 2018 semester. The proposed amended Spring 2019 academic calendar is also being developed at this time.

6) When appropriate, would you give us an update about your plans for the proposed off-site locations in Tinian and Rota. We presume you will delay these plans for a date uncertain right now while you are in recovery mode.

Requests for Substantive Change for Tinian and Rota sites will need to be delayed. The NMC Tinian site received damages and has completed its rebuilding process. The substantive change proposal is anticipated to be submitted at the end of January 2019.