



**Eastern Connecticut State University announced Tuesday it will move to online-only classes through the spring semester and cancel commencement.**

Roxanne Pandolfi | Staff

# Eastern says rest of spring semester will be held online

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WILLIMANTIC — The Connecticut State Colleges and Universities system announced Tuesday all 17 CSCU schools will move to online-only classes through the spring semester.

CSCU President Mark Ojakian announced that the universities, including Eastern Connecticut State University in Willimantic, will operate on an online-only basis through May.

“I understand that this is a new direction for faculty and students alike, but it has become clear that the COVID-19 pandemic will continue to affect our state well beyond April 5,” Ojakian wrote. “We must do everything in our power not just to keep our students, faculty and staff healthy and safe, but also to slow the spread of the virus.”

The university system previously announced an online course format for two weeks after the spring break from March 23 through April 3.

All in-person spring commencement activities will be canceled.

“I know how hard students and faculty have worked to get to this point, and we are looking at all options to ensure they receive the recognition they deserve in addition to the diploma they have earned,” Ojakian wrote.

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Nearly all nonessential staff will continue to work from home.

All campuses will be closed to the public through at least the end of the semester.

By the end of the week, students and staff will receive more information on distance learning, telework and orderly collecting

belongings from the residence halls.

University leaders will work to ensure students have the necessary housing accommodations.

Finally, university officials will outline a process and timeline for issuing refunds for room and board payments.

*Follow Claire Galvin on Twitter - @CGalvinTC.*