

Easing the Transition to Arizona's Public Universities for State's Graduating Senior Class

(Phoenix, Ariz.)

Enrollment administrators at the universities want prospective students to know that they are meeting students where they are in their lives during this pandemic, taking into account their circumstances and helping students access financial aid. All of the universities are stressing flexibility in working with students on admissions to the institutions while addressing concerns such as paying for college, what life is like as a student and how campuses will be different during the upcoming semester.

"There is no reason ... that a family even in the middle of a massive disruption cannot have their child go to a public university. We have unbelievable mechanisms to make things work – from financial aid, to flexible courses," President Crow said.

Flexibility applies to students whose financial situation may have changed dramatically since they completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), said Anika Olsen, Northern Arizona University vice president of enrollment management. "A lot of students and their families are just unsure at this time," she added. "Our national data suggests 30 to 40 percent of students are kind of in a wait and see mode."

Arizona's public universities provide robust financial aid for students - \$863.3 million in gift aid i4tF(5.663 0 TdTj0.25 (t)-u