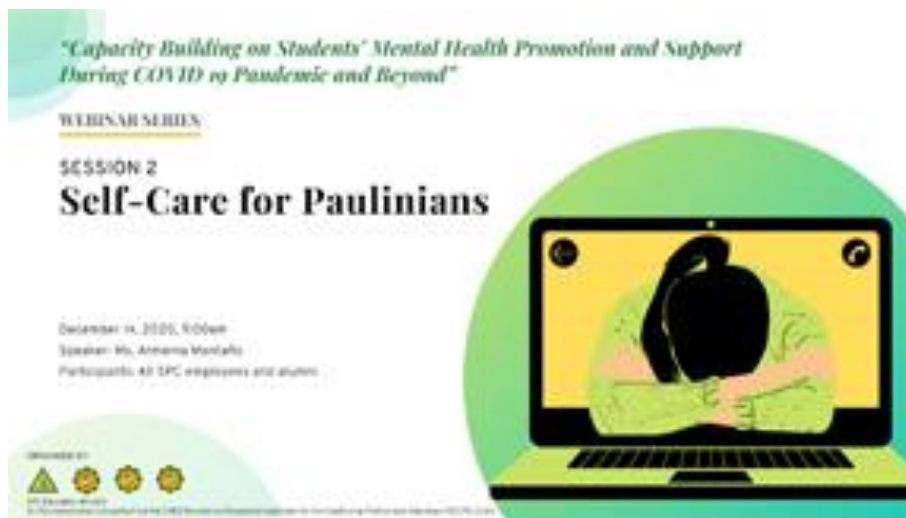


IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

SPCEM WEBINAR NO. 2

The SPC Education Ministry, in coordination with St. Paul Universities Consortium for the CHED Revised and Expanded Guidelines for the Continuing Professional Education (RECPE) Grant (SPUM, SPUQC, and SPUD) has organized a webinar series entitled "Capacity Building on Paulinian's mental Health Promotion and Support During COVID 19 Pandemic and Beyond."

The second installment of the webinar series entitled "Webinar on Self-Care for Paulinians" will be held at 9:00 A.M.-12:00 NN. Today, 14 December 2020.



Session 2

Webinar Workshop on Self-Care for Paulinians

Date: December 14, 2020, 8:30 A.M.

Speaker: Ms. Armenia Montaña

Chair: Mrs. Irish S. Udtohan

Co-Chair: Dr. Joanne Popanes

Moderator: Ms. Jeneviev Deang

Facilitator: Mr. June Rett Aquino

Technical Team: Mr. Paul Ocampo and Engr. Mervin Cequeña of SPUM ICT Team and Ms. Ma. Kate Mariño and Mr. John Aldwin Abalos of SPUD ICT Team

Registration: <https://bit.ly/3761BwS>



**Zoom log-in details will be given in the acknowledgment part of the registration form.*

TIME	ACTIVITY	PERSON-IN-CHARGE
8:30:9:00	Zoom log-in	SPU Manila Technical Team/SPU Dumaguete ICT
	Guidelines of the webinar	Ms. Joanna Deciar
9:00	Opening Prayer Singing of the National Anthem	Sr. Sheila Frances Felipe, SPC National Anthem video
9:05	Welcome Remarks	Sr. Joseline Lasala, SPC
9:10	Introduction of Speaker	Ms. Jeneviev Deang
9:10 –10:45	Webinar Presentation	Ms. Armenia Montaño
10:45-11:00	Open Forum	Facilitator: Mr. June Aquino
	Presentation of Certificate to the Speaker	Mrs. Irish S. Udtohan
11:00	Evaluation Closing Prayer	Mr. June Rett Aquino Mrs. Angela Kristine Ocao

SPU MANILA IN THE PANDEMIC

The Quick Response Team of the Marketing Office has recently posted the following posters on social media:





LET'S HEAR IT FROM THE STUDENTS

Adapting to COVID-19: Making college admissions 'pandemic-proof'

by Francis Amiga
from *The Paulinian*

"No drama. No stress."

This is how the Ateneo de Manila University (AdMU), one of the prominent private universities in the country, announced their decision with regards to admissions during the ongoing pandemic.

If there is one thing that every high school student understands, it would be the importance of preparing for college life. Unfortunately, the reach of the pandemic was so vast it included not only workers, but also supposed-to-be-freshmen

The stoppage of entrance examinations impacted both application preparations— from gathering reviewers and attending review centers—and the admission process, as evident in schools' reliance on previous student performance.

Perhaps the most common denominator for the application procedure is the evaluation of the applicant's previous grades. This requirement may not look that different from pre-pandemic application, since even then, college admissions already indicated minimum grade requirements as prerequisite.

Aside from depending on academic records, the University of Santo Tomas (UST), another well-known local university, also takes into consideration the extra-curricular records of the student, both of which are then computed to arrive at the University of Santo Tomas Admission Rating (USTAR) score.

Another application format innovated due to the lockdown protocols was introduced by AdMU, which requires applicants to submit an essay, along with the recommendation letters from past teachers and administrators. These, combined with the student's previous academic performance, make up the application requirements for the said university.

Difficulties surrounding admissions, however, do not concern only the students. Universities are scrambling to continuously improve their online reach. The administration of the Philippines' top state university—the University of the Philippines (UP)—is still discussing the steps it will take regarding the system of freshmen admissions. Although they have unanimously decided to discontinue the UP College Admission Test (UPCAT), as of writing, the institution has yet to come up with the final guidelines, which are currently in the process of modification.

It is vital to realize that, like the students, schools also suffer from the pandemic. Not only do they have to streamline their online application procedures, but they also have to make inclusive decisions to ensure the just admission of applicants.

However, if this grade-based application is what it takes for the school to observe safety measures while ensuring reasonable admission procedures, then it will only be a question of efficacy and not fairness. These decisions may be a sad truth for many, but, unfortunately, neither the students nor the universities' administration can do anything about the situation because the traditional admission system cannot be implemented due to the circumstances set by the pandemic.

If the nature of the process would be examined, however, the next most feasible way of conducting college admissions this year would be online entrance tests. Of course, in a vacuum, this would be ideal for both the colleges and financially capable students. However, digitizing entrance exams can also pose technical difficulties for the school and the takers themselves. Some Philippine universities had begun exploring this option when the pandemic first hit the country, but it was barely successful. The applicants needed to secure a stable connection to answer the test— a problem that has become evident since the start of distance learning. Digital tests are also far easier to rig compared to traditional pen-and-paper examinations because of the lack of supervision of students taking the test. Online entrance examinations, although ideal for some, have not been an option chosen by many prominent universities for their 2021 admission procedure.

Given all of these circumstances, it is understandable that some people would become outraged by the tedious admission procedures. These decisions made, however complex, could have been handled better if institutions had acted with more sense of urgency. Sure, it is an unfamiliar situation to be in, but if they had made the line of connection much shorter by quickly relaying their proposed plans and decisions, then applicants could have prepared themselves better for the revised procedures.

To progress from this impasse, there is need to address the underlying reason behind all of this ruckus—the COVID-19 response in the country. As we, students, struggle to complete this arduous academic year, let alone apply for the next level, we must also constantly demand accountability from stakeholders who placed us in this situation. But while doing this, we should never let go of the hope that this unfortunate situation could be the last.

Sources:

<https://www.rappler.com/nation/college-entrance-exams-philippines-2020>

https://www.up.edu.ph/up-weighs-options-for-ay-2021-2022-admissions/?fbclid=IwAR1R3-ueZopzQGfDAVqpbmp3HR8JOVszZfr4kdaaeMdoKODK3a5zMr5r_D4

<https://www.up.edu.ph/no-upcat-2021-up-admissions-system-undergoing-modification/>

AND FROM THE ALUMNAE

Popi Gutay, High School 1973, shared the following news about her class:

High School 1973 gave love offerings of P 15,000 each to

- St. Paul Vigil House in Taytay
- Mere Monique Home in Iloilo

Donations were also given to three St. Paul communities in the Cagayan area devastated by Typhoon Ulysses.

1. St. Paul Hospital Tuguegarao: P 10,000
2. St. Paul Tuguegarao: P 10,000
3. St. Paul Aparri: P 20,000

HS batch 73's own little way of sharing their blessings. 😊💕 We actually raised P 200,000 in two months then distributed to the following beneficiaries/foundations:

1. Tulay ng Kabataan: P 20,000
2. Sisters of the Holy Family: P 15,000
3. CRIBS: P 15,000
4. Silong Tanglaw: Three tablets for online classes of the kids
5. NVC-Negrense Volunteer Community: P 15,000
6. Caritas Manila: P 25,000.

The Paulinian spirit is alive and well!