

# Safety Measures in H-SS Building



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To prevent the rapid spread of COVID-19 during the pandemic, the university and our department implemented security measures in the Humanities and Social Sciences (H-SS) building.

Signs were posted to remind students, faculty, and staff to wear masks, wash their hands frequently, and practice social distancing. A hand sanitizer station was placed in the hallway near the door to the ETC suite, and a bottle of hand sanitizer was left on the receptionist's counter for visitors to use.

The entrance near the receptionist's desk was blocked by a red velvet rope between two stanchions. All visitors were expected to wait in line behind the rope until they were called. In keeping with social-distancing guidelines, "stand apart" stickers were placed

on the floor at six-foot intervals. A plexiglass shield was installed on top of the receptionist's counter.

Many desks were removed from H-SS classrooms to maintain a six-foot distance. Stickers on the floor marked where each desk should be. The capacity of H-SS 201, for example, was reduced from 40 to 12 students during the pandemic.



## Dr. Northcut Appointed Interim VP



Several weeks into the Spring 2020 semester, Dr. Kathryn Northcut, professor of technical communication, was appointed interim vice provost for academic support at Missouri S&T. She had to transition abruptly from classroom teaching to full-time administrative work. Drs. David Wright and Carleigh Davis took over her courses already in progress.

In her new role, Northcut is now responsible for many areas of academic affairs. She oversees several departments, including S&T Advising, International Affairs, Student Design Center, Experiential Learning, the Honors Program, and student support services such as the Writing Center, Student Success Center, and Student Veteran's Resource Center.

She is tasked with ensuring that student support services improves Missouri S&T's retention and graduation rates. She handles all reported violations of the academic code of conduct involving undergraduate students. Her new administrative role, she says, is "great because I'm developing a managerial skill set, but I definitely miss the interaction with students that I enjoy when I'm teaching."