



WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY COVID-19 UPDATE

Dear faculty members,

As was noted last week, Wichita State looks forward to welcoming students, faculty and staff back to campus for the start of the fall 2020 semester. Plans for facility use, hybrid instruction and university events are under way, and, while ever-cautious, we are excited for the future.

Today I wanted to let you know of an additional change for fall 2020 as we work to accommodate this new normal. The length of the semester will remain unchanged, beginning Aug. 17 and ending Dec. 10; however, we have made two adjustments to previously-scheduled breaks:

First, we have canceled the two-day Fall Break. I understand that this may be of some disappointment to those of you who look forward to these few days as an opportunity to reset and recharge. Please know that this decision was made with the health, safety and well-being of our entire campus community in mind. As we do not know what the COVID landscape will look like in the fall, we do not want to risk increased campus exposure as possibly thousands of faculty, staff and students return to campus after potential out-of-state travel.

We are using the two days of Fall Break to accelerate Thanksgiving Break, which will now begin Monday, Nov. 23. This means that all in-person instruction must be completed by Friday, Nov. 20.

Students will **not** return to campus after Thanksgiving and will instead complete the semester, including the remaining four days of instruction, and study periods and final exams, remotely. Instructors wishing to complete in-person assessments must do so prior to Nov. 20.

Many questions about this alternative schedule must still be answered, including the October and December commencement ceremonies. Please be assured that I will update you as additional details are developed.

Again, I thank you for your continued patience, flexibility and dedication to our students as we work together to navigate these uncertain times.

Thanks---Rick

Richard D. Muma, PhD, MPH
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