

WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY COVID-19 UPDATE

July 2, 2020

SPRING 2021 SEMESTER UPDATE

Dear faculty and staff,

I hope this finds you well and enjoying your summer. While somewhat hard to believe, we are now less than two months away from welcoming all of you, as well as our students, back to campus. Plans for Fall 2020 are well underway, and our reintegration teams – which include some of you – continue their diligent work preparing for, among other things, facility use, hybrid instruction, campus events, and, perhaps most importantly, campus health and safety.

In late May, we let you know of [adjustments to the fall semester](#). Today I want to let you know of similar modifications to our Spring 2021 schedule. In an effort to keep all of us safe from possible infection spikes of coronavirus and the complication of seasonal flu peaking in the winter months, we will make the following adjustments:

- Provide an Online Only Expanded Spring Semester Pre-Session: There will be an online-only pre-session in January with options for one-, two-, and four-week classes. This session will begin January 4 and end January 29 and will include an observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. day on January 18. Like previous spring pre-sessions, this is an optional session in which faculty may choose to offer courses to allow for continuous learning for students before the start of the regular spring semester.
- Spring Semester – Delayed Start: The regular Spring semester will begin two weeks later than normal, on Monday, February 1. Courses will be offered in several formats: online, hybrid-online, and hybrid. The last day of this semester will be Thursday, May 6, with finals proceeding as originally scheduled from May 8-13. Commencement remains scheduled for May 15, but the date and format are subject to change based on applicable health and safety guidelines in effect at that time.
- Spring Break: Out of an abundance of caution and concern for the health, safety, and well-being of our entire campus community, we have made the difficult decision to cancel Spring Break. This week has instead been added to the break between the Fall and Spring semesters, which will now run from December 11 to January 29.

- Course Code Added for Spring Semester: We are adding a new instructional method designation to our Spring Semester schedule-building process: Internet Instruction Synchronous (IIS). This code allows us to distinguish between fully online courses that are asynchronous vs synchronous. The IIS code will be used on fully online courses with an assigned meeting time for synchronous teaching. As with IIE courses, the IIS designation will have an online fee.

On a personal note, I remain incredibly grateful for your patience, flexibility, and cooperation as we continue to navigate these uncertain times. I know that guidance from our state and local health authorities has been changing rapidly these past few weeks as our entire community learns how to co-exist with this virus and that those changes require our quick review and, sometimes, changes to our plans. It is because of your contributions, efforts and dedication to the University, your colleagues, and, most importantly, our students that we are able to effectively move forward.

That being said, I need to make an additional ask of you: if we have learned nothing else during this pandemic, it is that our own health, as well as the health of our family, friends, and neighbors depends upon our commitment to and compliance with public health guidance. While the University continues to plan for your safety, I ask that each of you provide for the safety of your colleagues and our students, as well as your own, when you return to campus. This includes practicing social distancing and wearing masks in accordance with public health and local government guidelines. You will learn more about the University's plan for the health and safety of our campus community as we get closer to the Fall semester.

In the meantime, I wish you all a happy, healthy, and safe rest of summer.

Take care.

Rick Muma

Executive Vice President, Provost, and Professor