

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT



S O U T H E A S T M I S S O U R I S T A T E U N I V E R S I T Y

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Dear Redhawks,

The spring 2020 semester was one we will not soon forget. We are proud of the ways you demonstrated your resiliency and successfully navigated the unexpected changes in your learning and living environments.

Summers sessions are now underway, and there are a large number of offerings available if you would still like to enroll. I encourage you to review your Degree Works and consider your options!

While summer is just beginning, we know the fall semester is just around the corner. That's why we are focusing our efforts now for your return in August! As we plan for the fall 2020 semester, please know you are at the center of the decisions we are making. Throughout the spring semester, several of you offered valuable ideas and feedback through your interactions with faculty and staff and through social media. Many of you have heard me say, **you** make us better. This has never been truer.

We know you already understand that as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, there will be changes in the way the University operates and the way students learn and socialize.

Throughout the summer, I will update you as we make decisions regarding fall 2020. This will include our plans for offering face-to-face classes (yes, our plan is to offer face-to-face courses!) and additional flexible learning options.

Here is what we know now:

University Departments Returning from Telework:

- From now through June 30, our employees are transitioning back to campus as their workspaces are modified to maintain safe social distancing guidelines.
- If you are in the area, you will find that the Student Recreation Center, Student Aquatic Center, and Southeast Bookstore have reopened.
- By June 1, most student service departments will have staff on-site and able to respond to phone inquiries more regularly.
- By June 29, most service departments will re-open for face-to-face service with the public.

Fall 2020 Classes

- As I indicated above, we are planning to hold face-to-face classes.
- While a decision has not yet been made, there is a possibility that some face-to-face classes may be held online or in other alternative modes of delivery.
- Thanks to the efforts of many of our faculty this spring and who will continue to work into the summer, we are planning to offer a new flexible learning mode this fall.
- You can expect to see more space in between you and others in face-to-face classes. For example:
 - Some sections may be relocated to large, non-academic spaces on campus.
 - Modifications to academic spaces will be made based on federal, state and local public health guidance.
 - Technology is being added or upgraded in many academic spaces to support virtual meetings, as needed.

Health and Safety

- The University is acquiring face masks, hand sanitizer, disinfectant spray and sneeze guards to protect our faculty, staff and students, and our Facilities Management staff is

already hard at work cleaning and retrofitting spaces across campus to prepare for your return.

- When you arrive, you'll find new signage and directions in place to guide and remind you about social distancing and safe practices.
- Subcommittees of our Emergency Operations Committee (EOC) are reviewing all aspects of campus life this summer to make adjustments as we reopen.
- Our “new normal” may look a little different when you return, but the goal is that careful and thoughtful planning, stepped-up cleaning and sanitation procedures will help our campus remain safe.

We have several groups, including our EOC, Commencement Committee, and Opening Week Committee developing plans for fall operations. We have included students in many of these planning efforts, and as always, I encourage you to express your ideas through the COVID-19 email at covid19@semo.edu.

As the summer progresses, we will share more details about your classes, residence halls, athletics and campus life. We are very excited about your return, and we are doing all we can to make fall 2020 a great experience as a Southeast Redhawk. Please continue to visit our COVID-19 web page at semo.edu/covid19 for updates.

Enjoy your summer!

