

Dear Redhawks and Families,

I know you are anxiously awaiting the fall semester – connecting with faculty and friends, settling into your residence hall, joining in University life and engaging in your fall 2020 classes.

We are now in the process of preparing the University to keep you safe, so we're ready for your arrival in August. As we announced earlier, we are planning to hold in-person classes beginning Aug. 24!

I know you have many questions about what to expect and how University life may be different with COVID-19. I want to share some important adjustments we've made to the fall 2020 academic calendar to help mitigate the risk of COVID-19 on our campus and to prepare as best we can, even with uncertainties, for the months ahead. We have very carefully planned the fall 2020 calendar with your health in mind. Here are a few highlights:

Fall 2020 Calendar

- Fall 2020 courses will be held face-to-face beginning Monday, Aug. 24, as originally scheduled.
- Classes will be held on Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 7.
- Fall break will be eliminated, and classes will be held Oct. 8-9.
- The last day of fall 2020 on-campus face-to-face classes will be Tuesday, Nov. 24, just prior to the Thanksgiving break.
- Fall 2020 classes will continue Nov. 30-Dec. 4 via remote/online instruction.
- Online/remote final exams will be held Dec. 7-11.
- The fall 2020 semester will end Friday, Dec. 11, a week earlier than scheduled.

University offices will be closed on Monday, Sept. 7, but the following essential services will be available to you:

- The Counseling & Disability Services office may be reached by phone for emergencies or crisis-related issues.
- The University Center will be open for dining services from 7:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. on its normal schedule.
- Information Technology (IT) computer labs and the IT Help Desk will remain open.
- Shuttle service will be in operation.
- The Student Recreation Center will be open from 5:30 a.m.-11 p.m.

With this schedule:

- We will forgo fall break.
- In-person classes will come to a close prior to the Thanksgiving break to limit your exposure to the virus during holiday-related travel and the potential for transmission thereafter.

- The remainder of the fall semester after Thanksgiving will be conducted online/remotely, including final exams.
- Residence halls will be open through the fall semester, and they will remain open during the winter break between the fall and spring semesters, as planned.
- We will communicate our plans for fall 2020 commencement in the very near future.

I am providing this information now so you can make your school, work, family and travel plans accordingly. We are working on plans for the spring 2021 semester, and we will communicate that information when it becomes available. Please continue to check semo.edu/covid19 for updates, and if you have questions, please email COVID19@semo.edu.

I look forward to seeing you at Southeast very soon!

Carlos Vargas
President