

March 19, 2021

MSU Community:

Our Spring semester continues to move along at a very nice pace. We want to compliment our entire University community for the teamwork in navigating these challenging times. The recent warmer weather is a welcome sign to get outside more often to eat, study, exercise, and visit.

Approximately one year ago our campus had to make drastic changes in our instructional methods, residential housing, and general operations. We are pleased with how we worked as a team to overcome the obstacles and where we are at this point.

A Forward Look and Campus Presence:

As the Covid-19 vaccine and mitigation efforts across the Commonwealth of Kentucky continue, we hope to begin moving in the ensuing weeks in a careful and phased approach to expanding several areas. As we begin this slow process, we ask our entire community to remain vigilant in wearing masks on campus until public health officials provide recommendations otherwise.

Within the next week or two our University Vice Presidents, who provide leadership to various campus areas, will be working and communicating with individual units, student groups, and campus facilities to slowly trend them in a direction that increases occupancy and operations. Our hope is to be able to offer more activities and presence that is parallel with the increased availability of the Covid-19 vaccine.

Please note that this does not mark an immediate full return to normal this spring, but rather an attempt to carefully phase-in greater usage of facilities and operations over the next few weeks and leading into the summer. You should begin seeing a light expansion in early-mid April, and then again in early-mid May.

Summer 2021:

We are planning for normal summer session course offerings. Please consider speaking with your academic advisor or our faculty on taking a course to catch-up or get-ahead.

Also, watch your email and campus postings for summer job opportunities as a student worker, or assisting with a number of our summer camps.

A Look Towards the Fall 2021 Semester:

For the past year we have been operating with 60-64% of our courses in-person, with the remainder online or hybrid. To allow us to look closer to normal, for the Fall 2021 semester we are expanding the number of in-person courses offered. Additionally, we are also planning to keep our course sizes as small as possible – this will assist us in maintaining the small school feel and student-success that we pride ourselves in. We will continue to offer online courses for students who may need them.

This August our residence halls are planning to return to a more normal level of occupancy. In addition, a number of the halls will undergo cleaning and painting this summer.

Please remember to cheer for our MSU men's basketball team – they are scheduled to play this evening at 9:50 p.m. in the NCAA Tournament. We appreciate what each of you have done over the past year and we look forward to brighter skies and a more vibrant campus ahead!

Stay Eagle Strong!