

September 21, 2020

MSU Campus Community:

Our campus continues to move through the Fall Semester and we appreciate everyone's dedication to wearing a mask and being cautious. We are doing well!

As we look to the future, we wanted to communicate broadly about Winter Term I and II, as well as Spring Semester 2021. We are announcing these dates well in advance in order to provide our students and employees adequate time to plan for success.

Winter Term I:

- December 14, 2020 – January 8, 2021
- This term will host 100% online classes.
- Registration for the term will begin November 4.

Winter Term II:

- December 3, 2020 – January 8, 2021
- This term will host 100% online classes from December 3 until January 8. This term will also host hybrid classes during the same time period that will also have additional in person, on-campus components for lecture/lab/studio during the week of January 4 -8, 2021.
- Students taking classes during this term may return to their residence hall on Sunday, January 3. More information will follow from the Office of Student Housing.
- Registration for the term will begin November 4.

These terms are a great opportunity to catch up, or get ahead, and students may take classes in one or both terms.

Pre-Semester "Spring Forward" Week – January 11-15:

The University will be delaying the start of the Spring Semester from January 11 to January 19. All classes will begin on January 19. During the week of January 11-15, and prior to the start of the semester, we are encouraging all of our student clubs, organizations, Greek life, athletics, SGA, etc. to schedule meetings that may be conducted and accessed virtually while at home. We are asking our classroom instructors to begin sending information to students on specific details related to each individual class during this week.

Spring Semester 2021:

After consultation with a number of individuals both on and off campus, we will be revising the Spring Semester. Specifically, the following are new dates that will allow for a 14-day period of time after January 1 in order to provide for a healthy start.

- January 19 – All classes begin, including first half semester classes.
- February 17 – Academic Break for students - no classes, but MSU will remain open.
- March – Spring Break will be cancelled.
- March 30 – Academic Break for students – no classes, but MSU will remain open.

- May 3 -7 – Final Examination week
- May 8 – Commencement (tentative)

The University will close on Monday, January 18 for observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. day. Our Student Affairs staff will work to provide a virtual observance.

Registration for the Spring Semester will begin November 4.

Residence Halls:

Students residing in on-campus residence halls for the spring semester will receive a separate email from the Office of Student Housing regarding the move-in process.

Classes and Advising:

For maximum flexibility in the Spring Semester, and to allow each student to select the best option for their individual circumstance, we are planning to offer a combination of class delivery. These include face-to-face classes, 100% online, shorter eight-week sections, and hybrid classes defined as meeting at least 50% of the time in-person. Please contact your academic advisor or the academic department should you wish to discuss more details.