

**Subject:** Update on fall classes

**June 12, 2020**

To: Undergraduate students

Dear Spartan Student:

I write to clarify for you some of our plans for the fall semester. Recently, President Stanley announced our intention to hold in-person classes in the fall and to open the residence halls to students. In order for us to do this safely and in compliance with limitations we expect will be placed on us by state officials and public health agencies, we will have to make significant changes to the fall's class schedule. These changes will increase the number of online and hybrid course as well as the options for students to take classes at different times of the day and days of the week.

### **Enrolling for fall 2020, spring 2021**

Earlier this week, returning students received a message from the Office of the Registrar explaining that the enrollment system for fall 2020 and spring 2021 is temporarily closed as we undertake pre-enrollment for the students attending New Student Orientation over the next seven weeks. Typically, we keep the enrollment system closed throughout the entirety of New Student Orientation and then reopen it in late July. However, this year we intend to reopen the system for you to make changes to your class schedule much earlier than usual. As the message from the registrar explained, the system will be reopened for you to make changes on June 29.

Between now and when the system reopens, your faculty will be making changes to their fall courses. I have asked faculty to put about half of their classes online, shift about a quarter of their classes to a hybrid mode of instruction and move the remaining in-person classes into larger rooms to allow for six-foot physical distancing. Over the summer, the faculty and staff have been participating in professional development programs for online and hybrid learning to ensure you have the best possible instruction during this unusual and difficult time.

### **Next steps**

By the time you are able to make changes to your fall schedule June 29, most fall courses will be identified as either online, hybrid or in-person. Throughout July, we will be making changes to the days and times of many in-person classes because the six-foot physical distancing rules will require us to reduce the size of in-person classes or move them to larger rooms. We also will offer more classes earlier and later in the day and probably some lab classes on Saturdays. The complexity of the task before us makes this a slow process and classes may be changed more than once during the process. Please keep an eye on your course schedule over the next two months and make changes when a class is moved to a day or time that does not work well for you.

As always, your academic advisers – not friends or social media – should be your source for definitive answers to any questions you have about the appropriate classes for you. International students will be receiving additional guidance from the Office for International Students and Scholars about these issues.

We know that you value the experience of being on campus as well as relationships, conversations and connections with other students, faculty and staff. We value them as well, and we are looking forward to seeing you in the fall.

Go Green,

Mark Largent