



Dear Students,

We are looking forward to having you on campus this fall. The university is beginning to buzz with excitement as faculty and staff prepare for your return. I am sure many of you have questions and uncertainty about what this fall semester will look and feel like. As you prepare for classes this fall, I wanted provide updates regarding additional measures the university is implementing to promote a safe and healthy learning environment for all.

The University of Saint Francis is committed to providing you with a high-quality experience where you can successfully work toward achieving your academic goals. In previous communication, you learned all classroom spaces will be socially distanced and some classes were moved to an online, or hybrid, format. Additional safety protocols for classrooms have also been adopted to help provide a safe, secure learning environment. These include the requirement that face coverings be worn in all classroom settings, regardless of social distancing, while labs, clinicals and other instructional spaces may require additional safety measures for your protection.

In addition to these changes, to minimize the risk of COVID-19 being transmitted on campus the university has also changed the academic calendar for undergraduate courses (face-to-face, hybrid and online) at the Fort Wayne and Crown Point sites:

- Monday, Aug. 24 – First day of fall semester
- Friday, Oct. 30 (5:00 p.m.) – Deadline to withdraw from courses with a “W”
- Friday, Nov. 20 – Last day of regular fall classes, deadline to withdraw from courses with a “WP/WF”
- Tuesday, Nov. 24 – Last day of in-person final semester exams (note: Saturday, Nov. 21 may be used to administer in-person final semester exams)
- Wednesday, Nov. 25 – Residence halls close for the semester
- Monday, Nov. 30 – Remaining online finals and projects.
- Friday, Dec. 4 – End of the fall term
- Tuesday, Dec. 15 – Faculty grade submission deadline

Graduate courses, Virtual Campus courses and on-ground courses at St. Elizabeth School of Nursing in Lafayette, Indiana, will proceed with their standard fall schedules and are not affected by the adjustment. This includes regular course content through Friday, December 4 and final semester exams the week of December 7.

The pandemic may also impact your ability to attend class should you be diagnosed with, exposed to, or have symptoms of COVID-19. To ensure that you can make prudential decisions about when to stay home and avoid exposing others to possible exposure, or care for your children should they be ill or quarantined, new academic policies have also been adopted providing excused absences for COVID-

related absences. While these do not excuse you from completing all course work, they do provide flexibility and support while preventing academic penalty if you find yourself in these circumstances.

To learn more about changes occurring on campus this fall in Academic Affairs, please review the Academic Affairs Student FAQ attached to help you understand and navigate the COVID-19 related changes the university has made to your academic experience. This is not meant to be an exhaustive list, and you can reach out to the Academic and Career Development Center with additional questions (acdc@sf.edu).

Faculty and staff are looking forward to being with you on campus this fall. USF is committed student success. As information changes and adjustments are made to how students engage with classes and campus, we will communicate out as immediate as possible. I encourage you to engage with campus activities, leverage the academic support resources available on-ground and online, and reach out with questions or concerns. We are in this together.

God bless,

Dr. Lance Richey

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