

Dear South Texas Students,

Thank you for your patience.

Over the course of the last several weeks, the faculty and staff have been tirelessly working on plans for the fall semester -- a semester that will be unlike any other. Every week, there is new information and guidance that affects our thinking. And, every week our expectations for the conditions we will face in August and throughout the fall have to be adjusted as the course of the pandemic changes.

I greatly appreciate that more than half of you responded to the survey on your preferences for next year. We took to heart the quantitative results and the qualitative results -- more than 30 pages of comments! -- and adjusted our plans dramatically in response to your preferences.

As a result of your input, we will be holding a very limited number of in-person classes on campus this fall; those in-person classes also will be online for those who are unable to attend in-person classes due to coronavirus (what we are calling the "hybrid" approach). Most upper-level classes will be online only.

- The full explanation and all of the details are in the attached document. I apologize that it is long, but I wanted you to have as much detail as possible.
- And, the updated Fall Class Schedule is linked here, as well -- showing which classes are "hybrid" and which are online only: <http://www.stcl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/2020-Fall-Tentative-Schedule-071420.3.pdf>

Two notes:

First, these are our plans based on the information available to us **today**. If conditions worsen, we may have to move entirely online.

Second, when we (like all of the academic world) transitioned to Zoom in the spring, it was done in an emergency circumstance. This summer, by contrast, our faculty have been redesigning their classes in case we had to move to an online delivery model this fall. I have been impressed by how committed our faculty members have been in learning best practices for online education and embracing new approaches to teaching.

As you have heard me say many times, there are no easy answers and no perfect solutions in the world of Covid-19. The plan that we have designed for this fall has been created to protect health and safety while ensuring that our students receive an excellent education and that we maintain our community feel and spirit.

It may not be the plan any of us would have created in the absence of coronavirus. But, I am proud of our faculty and staff and the effort they are putting in to ensure an

exceptional fall semester. And, I am confident that all of us will rise to the challenges that coronavirus is presenting.

I would be happy to discuss this plan with you in a virtual town hall tomorrow (Wednesday) at 2.00 p.m. The Zoom information is attached.

In the meantime, please be safe.

And I look forward to seeing you soon.

All the best,

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