

## One-time Extension of the Withdrawal Deadline for Fall 2021

provost@slu.edu

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Dear Saint Louis University community,

The past 18 months have caused significant upheaval for everyone at Saint Louis University and throughout higher education in general. All SLU leaders recognize that, even though much has returned to normal this Fall, much has not; for our faculty, staff, and students, this has not been easy.

As you have read in recent messages from Student Development VP Sarah Cunningham and me, we are implementing a number of changes to how we support the mental health and well-being of our students, both temporarily and for the “new normal” ahead of us, long-term. That includes addressing existing academic policies that can be appropriately modified to mitigate student stress while ensuring integrity in the fulfillment of the policies’ primary academic purposes.

Accordingly, today I announce **a change to the course withdrawal deadline for the Fall 2021 semester: for courses in the main 16-week semester, the original “W” date was this coming Sunday, Nov. 7 -- but we are extending that to Sunday, Dec. 5, 2021.**

While this is only a temporary change impacting the Fall 2021 term, based on anticipated future input from the deans, faculty, staff and students, and from the Student Well-Being Task Force, we expect similar recommendations for this and other permanent policy changes.

I want to encourage all students who may be struggling with a course this fall to speak with their faculty mentors and academic advisors about this option, and what it would mean for their degree progression. It might -- or might not -- be an appropriate decision. Please seek professional guidance to understand the implications of this choice.

I also encourage all faculty and student-facing staff to make themselves aware of this change, and to support our students as best they can. Together, we will ensure that our commitment to holistic student success and well-being is achieved with both compassion and academic integrity.

Sincerely,

Mike Lewis, Ph.D.  
Provost