

Planning for Fall 2021 Courses

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Dear Saint Louis University community,

As we continue our mostly in-person spring semester and start planning for the fall 2021 term, I want to provide an update on our planning process and a timeline for making key decisions.

Fall 2021

We successfully completed the fall 2020 semester, and is most of the way through spring 2021, with a majority of our classes taking place on campus. As planning for fall 2021 is upon us, I have launched a working group consisting of faculty, staff, students and public health experts to talk through the possibilities for the fall. This includes course modalities (in-person, online, hybrid, etc.), social distancing in classrooms, strategies for pivoting when/if guidelines change, and parameters around how we will approach faculty teaching online and students attending class online. As we have for the past year, we will continue to lead with public health guidance and keep the safety of our entire community first and foremost.

We are hoping to have the fall term look as normal as possible. Until we receive final recommendations from the working group, I ask that faculty do not make changes to course schedules, modalities, capacities or offerings.

There are a lot of moving parts with the pandemic, vaccine rollout, and CDC and local health guidance that must be taken into account when planning for the fall. Although our numbers for both COVID-19 infections and vaccines distributed are encouraging, we must take all these data points into account in our planning. I will provide updates on the progress of this group every 2-3 weeks until the end of the spring semester.

Summer 2021

As previously stated, summer course protocols will mirror those used for spring 2021. In-person courses, with the exception of labs, must accommodate students wishing to take the course but unable to attend in-person. Longer-term decisions about courses moving online permanently have broader implications, so I will be appointing a task force to address this topic.

Feel free to reach out to my office with any questions.

Sincerely,

Mike Lewis, Ph.D.
Provost