

Welcome to the Spring 2021 Semester

provost@slu.edu

Wed 1/27/2021 3:56 PM

Dear Saint Louis University community,

First, I want to thank you for all your hard work during the fall semester, especially as we grappled with the global pandemic and a shortened semester without many breaks. I know that the semester was very stressful, and the fluid situation in which we found ourselves was not easy. I commend you for remaining diligent in your teaching and studies, for supporting each other, and for being flexible as the semester progressed.

As we start the spring semester, I wanted to provide some information on this semester's academic calendar, important dates, and information on pass/no pass grading.

Academic Calendar and Mental Health Days

Similar to last semester, the spring calendar looks different from normal years. We are starting most classes 10 days later than planned (Jan 28), but still ending the semester in May. As we shared last semester, the decision was made to compress the calendar, and include several mental health days throughout the semester in lieu of a week-long spring break. These days are:

- Wed, Feb 17
- Thurs, Mar 11
- Fri, Apr 2 (Good Friday)

We need to give all students the necessary time and space to focus on their mental health during a compressed semester, and that includes these days off. I want to remind all faculty that these dates also apply to graduate students.

Please note that many schools and colleges, or individual programs, have dates that vary from the typical academic calendar. Please check out the University's [academic calendar](#) for more information on key dates for the spring semester, and reach out to your individual school, college, or program for dates specific to your program.

Pass/No Pass Grading

In the spring 2020 semester, given the unprecedented nature of the situation we were facing, we chose to implement a "pass/low pass/no pass" option to give students some flexibility in their coursework. We also cautioned students that choosing that option for a course may have implications for degree progression or future plans for graduate and professional schools. We saw very low participation with this option, likely due to these concerns.

For the fall semester, we reverted back to the normal [pass/no pass policy](#), which includes a petition process and instructor approval for undergraduate, elective courses only. We will continue with our normal policy in the spring 2021 semester.

If you have any additional questions, feel free to reach out to my office (provost@slu.edu), to your individual school/college, or to your academic advisor.

I am excited that our students, faculty, and staff are returning to mostly face-to-face instruction in this semester. Hopefully, you all had a chance to rest and recharge during the long winter break. Thank you again for making the fall semester a success, and I look forward to seeing you in person or virtually this spring.

Thank you,

Mike Lewis, Ph.D.
Interim Provost