

Subject: Changes to spring 2021 semester calendar

Date: Thursday, October 15, 2020 at 9:45:00 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: UofL Update

To: UofL Update

Dear Cardinal Community,

With the fall semester well underway, we have been actively planning for the spring 2021 semester. Our Pivot to Fall plan helped us anticipate many needs for adapting to the pandemic this semester, and we've implemented numerous improvements to that plan in order to respond to our shared experiences and your feedback. We will approach the spring 2021 semester by building upon everything we've learned this fall and continue following the guidance of our infectious disease experts, public health experts and local government officials.

Changes and key dates for spring 2021

We will delay the first day of spring classes and shorten the length of spring break. Spring Commencement is being tentatively planned to occur on May 8. Key dates for the university's [spring 2021 academic calendar](#) are as follows:

- Jan. 11: Classes start
- Jan. 15: Last day to drop/add
- Jan. 18: Martin Luther King Jr. Day (holiday)
- Mar. 4 and 5: Spring break
- Mar. 12: Last day to withdraw
- Apr. 21: End of classes
- Apr. 22: Reading day
- Apr. 23-29: Final examinations

These changes in dates apply to all undergraduate and most graduate programs. Please note that professional schools and some graduate programs have their own calendars. For more specific calendars and registration information, [click here](#).

Our Pivot to Spring

The most recent student survey indicated that 35% of students who responded wanted fully online courses, while 65% of students indicated their desire to take a combination of hybrid and online courses. Our academic units are in the process of coding classes according to these modalities, and the schedule of courses will be updated by the end of October, when registration begins. We strongly encourage students who feel unsafe attending in-person classes to register early for distance ed and remote courses. If available online options for required courses will not allow a student to make progress toward degree, we ask faculty to continue to accommodate students who request to take hybrid courses fully online. However, students should make the request to take a hybrid course fully online before the add/drop period has ended. Students who cannot be accommodated by a particular faculty member should be referred to the unit dean's designee for advisement on options. Please note: some courses require in-person instruction (labs, clinicals, practicums, etc.) and may not be available fully online.

Let me thank you again for the incredible adherence to the [health and safety protocols](#) I continue to see from our students, faculty and staff. Our university continues to monitor virus activity on campus,

and we intervene quickly when contact tracing and isolation are needed.

One of our Cardinal Principles is Agility, which compels us to remember that things change. And when they do, we must change things. We don't know exactly what the spring semester will bring, but we are ready to make changes when necessary. Thank you for continuing to pivot with us. I know it is tiring. I know it is difficult. But I know we can do this, together.

Beth A. Boehm
Executive Vice President and University Provost