

Dear Spartan Graduate Student:

I write to clarify for you some of our plans for the fall semester. Recently, President Stanley announced our intention to hold classes in varying delivery formats and provide safe protocols for research. In order for us to do this safely and in compliance with limitations we expect will be placed on us by state officials and public health agencies, we will make significant changes to the fall's class schedule. These changes will increase the number of online and hybrid courses as well as the options for students to take classes at different times of the day and days of the week.

Next steps

Fall courses will be identified as either online, hybrid or in-person. Throughout July, we will be making changes to the days and times of many in-person classes because the six-foot physical distancing rules will require us to reduce the size of in-person classes or move them to larger rooms. We also will offer more classes earlier and later in the day and probably some lab classes on Saturdays. The complexity of the task before us makes this a slow process and classes may be changed more than once during the process. Please keep an eye on your course schedule over the next two months and should a class be moved to a day or time that does not work well for you please adjust your course schedule accordingly.

Over the summer, the faculty and staff have been participating in professional development programs for online and hybrid learning to ensure you have the best possible instruction during this unusual and difficult time. Please continue to work with your graduate program directors and faculty advisors throughout the summer. International students will be receiving additional guidance from the Office for International Students and Scholars as to options that will be available to you.

We know how important the relationships, conversations and connections with other students, faculty and staff are to a successful education. We value these as well, and we are looking forward to seeing you in the fall.

Go Green,
Thomas Jeitschko