



*Dr. Maryanne Stevens, RSM  
President*

*OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT*

*Telephone: (402) 399-2435  
Fax: (402) 399-2342*

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Dear College of Saint Mary Undergraduate Students:

Congratulations on completing the spring 2020 semester! We missed seeing you on campus during the spring and are actively preparing for your return in August in alignment with health guidelines from the county and the state. We are planning for in-person classes to resume knowing that there may have to be some variations compared to how we did things in pre-pandemic times. I have no doubts that our campus community will adapt to provide the best possible teaching/learning and co-curricular opportunities.

Here are some principles guiding our planning:

1. Our mission, with its foundation in Catholic/Mercy values is to provide access to education in an environment that calls forth potential and fosters leadership. We know that some of you and your families have experienced significant disruption to your lives. To fulfill our mission, we will do everything we can to provide you with the means to continue your education.
2. The health and wellness of our students, faculty and staff is our highest priority. Thus, we will pivot as necessary to maintain social distance, wearing of masks, and other activities asked for by public health authorities.
3. We know our students will require flexibility, given that individual needs may change. "What if you get the virus?" "What if you are exposed and need to quarantine?" We are making plans that will accommodate quarantining and isolation, to include but not be limited to: the provision of a safe place and meals delivered if you are living in our residence halls, access to technology to view courses through vid-grid if you are exposed but not sick, etc.

To respond to these principles and to keep all as safe as possible, we are changing the calendar as outlined below.

- **Undergraduate classes will begin one week earlier, on Wednesday, August 19**, rather than Wednesday, August 26.
- **The undergraduate fall semester and finals will be completed by Tuesday, December 8**, rather than Thursday, December 17.
- **We will forego fall break**, utilizing these as class days.
- **Following Thanksgiving break, there will be seven class days through the end of the semester on December 8. The majority of classes will be taught online during this timeframe.** Residence students will have the ability and choice to return to campus housing during this time.
- Any specific program differences will be communicated to you by your academic program director.

These adjustments will not change the total number of class days in the semester. What they will do is reduce the number of days and people on campus in December, when the traditional flu season typically

peaks. We appreciate your flexibility with these changes, which are being made as precautionary measures to reduce health risks as we enter the new academic year.

	Original Dates	Revised Dates
<b>Residence hall move-in for soccer and volleyball players</b>	<i>8/9/20 (Sunday) – No Change</i>	
<b>Residence hall move-in for MLL</b>	8/16/20 (Sunday)	8/9/20 (Sunday)
<b>Residence hall move-in for competitive dance athletes</b>	8/17/20 (Monday)	8/11/20 (Tuesday)
<b>Residence Hall move-In for continuing students</b>	8/23/20 (Sunday)	8/16/20 (Sunday)
<b>First day of classes</b>	8/26/20 (Wednesday)	8/19/20 (Wednesday)
<b>Labor Day – no classes</b>	<i>9/3/20 (Monday) – No change</i>	
<b>Midterms week</b>	10/15 to 10/21/20	10/8 to 10/14/2020
<b>Fall Break</b>	10/22 to 10/23/20	No fall break
<b>Thanksgiving Break</b>	<i>11/25-11/27/20 – No change</i>	
<b>Finals week</b>	12/14 to 12/17/20	12/3 to 12/8/2020
<b>Last day of fall semester</b>	12/17/2020	12/8/2020
<b>Winter graduation ceremonies</b>	12/19/2020	12/12/2020

As noted above, extensive planning is underway to support your academic success and the health and safety of all of our CSM community. Things we are already doing:

- All spaces are being cleaned with EPA-Approved materials.
- All learning spaces and common areas will observe adjusted maximum capacities in accordance with the recommendations provided in August by the state/county health department.
- We will have a comprehensive plan to proactively respond to any individual who is symptomatic, tests positive for COVID-19, or has been in close contact with someone who tests positive.

We are waiting for further guidance regarding athletic competition. We do expect to be able to play fall sports with limited spectators.

We understand that flexibility in our planning is necessary, as there are still many external factors that are unknown. For example, area school districts are still determining how they will teach children in the fall. We understand that this could impact our CSM community as well, with 14% of our undergraduate students being moms, in addition to many of our faculty and staff.

More detailed information, including frequently asked questions, will be provided in early July. In the meantime, if you have specific questions, please use the following [link](#) and we will respond to you as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,



Dr. Maryanne Stevens, RSM

