

Subject: From Dean Quick: Your Role in a Successful Fall at SMU



SMU | **MOODY**
SCHOOL OF GRADUATE
AND ADVANCED STUDIES

21 August 2020

Welcome back Graduate Students! As we approach the first day of the fall semester, I am sure that you are eager to continue making progress toward your degree goals. At the same time, it is completely understandable that you may have concerns about what your educational experience will be like at SMU during the pandemic, and I would like to focus this communication on how *you* have a critical role in facilitating a successful fall term for yourself and your fellow students.

As a graduate student, it is important that you model safe and healthy behavior for undergraduate students. I hope you have reviewed the Canvas course that provides “what to expect” information for the fall semester, and have read through [material shared by President Turner](#) and others that explains the systems and processes that make SMU as safe as possible during the pandemic. If you have not read the [Pledge to Protect SMU](#) that can be found at the conclusion of the Canvas course referenced above, please read it now. This *Pledge* was developed by individuals representing all campus stakeholders – including students – and the entire campus community is expected to honor the expectations outlined for keeping each other safe.

The campus community will get plenty of positive reinforcement and friendly reminders to keep that *Pledge*, and in the interest of everyone’s safety, individuals who deliberately or negligently disregard the expected behavior articulated in the *Pledge to Protect SMU* will be held accountable. Examples of behavior that would violate the expectations outlined in the *Pledge to Protect SMU* include, but are not limited to:

- Knowingly attending class in person while exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19;
- Repeated failure to wear a face covering or disregard for requests to wear a face covering;
- Disregard for isolation or quarantine guidance provided by a contact tracer;
- Refusal to comply with contact tracing efforts by University officials;
- Planning or participating in a gathering not organized according to social distancing guidelines;
- Hosting unauthorized guests on campus; and
- Planning or participating in student organization events that are not in compliance with the guidelines established by the Division of Student Affairs.

Sanctions assigned to students found responsible for violating the expectations of the *Pledge* could range from a warning to suspension or expulsion from the University. Those situations that put others at the most risk could result in a student's removal from campus for the remainder of the semester and a requirement that they complete their coursework remotely.

If you are a TA or an RA in the fall semester, it is possible that a student fails to wear appropriate face covering or respect personal distancing in a laboratory or classroom setting for which you are responsible. If this occurs, you should first ask the student to comply with these requirements. If the student will not comply, you should ask them to leave the laboratory or classroom. If the student will neither comply nor leave, then you are authorized to close the laboratory or class. You should report the incident to the faculty member teaching the class or administering the laboratory.

Maintaining the health and safety of our fellow Mustangs should be a priority of all of us, and I thank you for your active and unqualified participation in this effort to keep our campus open and operating.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "James E. Quick". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

James E. Quick
Dean
Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies