

Good Morning

Below you will find an email sent to [undergraduate students](#) on Saturday, August 1. The newsletter contains many things previously shared, so I want to highlight three new pieces of information.

1. Students now have until August 14 to [request a fully remote experience](#). We should have all students coded into the system of record by August 21. Faculty will continue to see additional students appear on their course roster coded as "REMOTE" until August 21.
2. Courses previously coded as REMOTE are now called VIRTUAL. We have created a [VIRTUAL course database](#) to make it easier for students and advisors to identify these courses. The database will be updated weekly.
3. We are continuing to work on identifying classrooms and spaces on campus that we will be able to designate as ZOOM rooms for students to reserve when they are unable to return to their on or off campus residence to engage remotely in their courses. Students will be able to reserve the room in advance but not for an entire semester. We are still trying to determine the appropriate length of time and how far in advance they will be able to schedule.

Save the Date: The Office of Student Academic Engagement and Success would like to invite faculty and staff who will be working with undergraduate students who requested a fully remote experience to share ideas about how we can support students who are engaging remotely fall 2020. During these lunch-time conversations, we will also share information about what we learned from the spring and provide an overview of which students have applied for a fully remote academic experience. These conversations are currently planned for August 10 and August 14 from 12 to 1. More details will be provided this week.

Thank you for your time and attention.

All the Best,
Sheri

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SMU *Connected*

Fall 2020

Two Course Formats:

SMUFlex

- Classes will be delivered at the scheduled time in a classroom space on campus. Students are expected to engage at assigned times during both in person and virtual class formats.
 - Exceptions might be made for students approved for a fully remote academic experience in the fall.
 - Students engaging virtually will be expected to have their cameras on unless they are experiencing technical limitations.
- **Students on campus** will be assigned to “red” and “blue” cohorts with alternating schedules to allow for in-person and virtual engagement during the semester.
 - Classroom space and teaching format will determine when this is necessary. Students would alternate between in-person and Zoom-based engagement at the scheduled course time.
 - Students will learn more about the “red” and “blue” cohorts prior to the first week of the semester.
 - Students on campus are expected to attend class in person as long as they are feeling well and have not been asked to self-quarantine. To help ensure this, faculty will not use punitive attendance policies in fall 2020.
 - Students in the classroom will be required to wear face coverings and maintain a distance of 6 feet from one another at all times (as recommended by [SMU’s Taskforce for a Healthy Opening Fall 2020](#)).
- **Students approved for a remote academic experience** will be allowed to attend virtually all semester.

- Class will be delivered in real-time via Zoom as well as recorded.
- Students engaging virtually will be expected to have their cameras on unless they are experiencing technical limitations.

VIRTUAL

- **Virtual (Previously called REMOTE)** You should notice that your courses previously labeled REMOTE are now called VIRTUAL.
- We have also created a [Virtual Courses Database](#) to help you quickly identify which courses are available in this format.
- VIRTUAL courses will have one-third synchronous content delivered via Zoom at the assigned time listed in My.SMU.
- VIRTUAL courses will be managed through Canvas, our learning management system (LMS).
- Faculty members teaching in this format have spent many hours training and preparing for an exciting remote experience that involves the same type of activities that you experience in a classroom (e.g. group work and discussions).

Two Student Experiences:

On Campus

- Students will engage with us in person, on campus in both SMUFlex and VIRTUAL class formats.

Remote

- Students [who have asked for a remote academic experience](#) will engage with their courses virtually and may continue to engage in-person or virtually with campus services. The final deadline to request a fully remote academic experience is August 14, 2020. This deadline now applies to both on and off-campus students.
- Students planning to live on-campus should NOT apply for a fully remote academic experience.
- Remote students may enroll in either VIRTUAL or SMUFlex courses. However, they may prefer the VIRTUAL courses since they are specifically designed for virtual engagement.

Where Will I Attend Class?

CLASSROOMS ON CAMPUS



You will attend your SMUFlex courses in classrooms prepared for social distancing and you will wear your face-covering during the class. Students should expect their SMUFlex courses to include in-person attendance every week.

ZOOM ROOMS ON CAMPUS



Zoom rooms will be spread across campus and will provide students with a quiet space to engage virtually in their courses when necessary. Most

Zoom rooms will accommodate more than one student and students will be expected to follow social distancing practices and wear their face-covering. Students will need to bring their own laptops and headphones. Zoom rooms will be scheduled through a centrally managed reservation system.

At Home or On Campus Residence



We expect most students will prefer to attend their VIRTUAL courses and Zoom meetings at their own off or on-campus residence.

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