

Good Afternoon!

The following email was sent to undergraduate students on Friday, August 7th.

I've recently been asked what is the purpose of the SMU Connected newsletter. For the next few weeks, this newsletter is primarily intended to help students prepare for a successful academic experience this fall, to share university wide reminders about upcoming deadlines, and to increase understanding of what to expect this semester.

Our hope is that the newsletter is one way for students, faculty, and staff to ask questions and share answers. As questions are commonly asked through individual emails, we will be including some of the most common ones each week. **If you have suggestions for what we should include in future student communications, please feel free to share your ideas by replying this email.**

Sincerely,

Sheri Kunovich
Associate Provost Student Academic Engagement and Success




SMU *Connected*

Important Announcements This Week

- COVID-19 Canvas Course Now Available (Log into Canvas, Look at Course Dashboard)

- **Requests to be fully remote** take up to one week to process. The final date to request to be fully remote is **August 14th**.
 - Exceptions after August 14 will only be made for students who confirm that they will live at least 45 miles away from campus and plan to be remote for the entire fall semester.
 - Students who need a “short-term request” for health or caregiving obligations will need to coordinate with their individual faculty members.
- SMU CAN and Community Pledge to Protect
 - All faculty, staff, and students have been asked to review and express their commitment.
 - **Go here** to read and acknowledge your commitment to support SMU’s plan to keep us all healthy.

Red-Blue Rotation Schedule



Red/Blue Flex Calendar

August 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

October 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

September 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

November 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24				

Students will find out their assigned Red or Blue rotation schedule at the end of next week. SMUFlex courses will follow a Red-Blue rotation schedule. Students will attend class in person on their assigned day and will engage virtually on the alternate days. For example, suppose you are an undergraduate student assigned into the Blue cohort and are enrolled in Sociology 1300 course that meets every M/W/F. In the sample schedule above – for the week of September 6-12- you would attend your economics course in-person. The following week, September 13-19, you will attend virtually. If you are assigned into the Red cohort, the opposite will be true.

In the event that an SMUFlex class has been assigned to a classroom with sufficient seating to accommodate all students, the faculty may choose to meet in person on all assigned class days. A student, however, has the ability to decide if they want to adhere strictly to their assigned Red-Blue schedule or if they would like to attend in-person if the faculty member presents that option. Students may not request to change their rotation schedule. Students who have requested to be fully REMOTE will not be assigned to the Red-Blue rotation schedule. SMU will publish the Red-Blue calendar to the SMU website and it will be a feature on your course calendar in Canvas.

Advantages of the Red-Blue rotation schedule:

- Allows SMU to further “de-densify” the classroom and the campus.
- Minimizes the need for a student living off-campus to come to campus every day.

Additional Time Between Courses

Use only **DESIGNATED SEATING**
to maintain "Social Distancing"



Room needs attention? Contact **Facilities 24 Hour Support**
for additional custodial service at **214-768-7000** or **smu.edu/facilities**



In order to provide SMUFlex courses with 15 minutes between class start times in the fall, all SMUFlex courses will end five minutes early. For example, classes following the M,W,F pattern will start on

the hour and will end 45 minutes after the start of class. You will notice this change for your SMUFlex courses in your schedule of classes. VIRTUAL classes have not been adjusted.

Adjusting the schedule in this way, has the following advantages:

- It will ensure 15 minutes between all daytime classes to set up technology and to clean desk and work stations.
- Students will have more time to transition between classes which will reduce hallway congestion.
- SMUFlex courses will replace the reduced contact time in a variety of ways, such as review sessions or organized time to workshop papers or projects.

Improving Your Fall Schedule

Strike a Balance that Works for You



REMOTE Students



On-Campus Students

SMU is offering two course formats this fall, and ALL students may enroll in either format. SMUFlex courses will be offered on-campus and will allow for some in-person engagement for students taking courses on-campus. A REMOTE student will be able to engage

virtually in SMUFlex courses. VIRTUAL courses will be offered exclusively on-line. If you want to easily identify which courses will be offered in the VIRTUAL format please use our [**Virtual Course Database**](#) to quickly identify VIRTUAL course options that will work for your schedule.

Common Questions About Virtual Courses

What is the difference between asynchronous and synchronous content?

Asynchronous content allows the student to engage with course content and complete course assignments at their own pace within a specific period of time. Synchronous content occurs on a set schedule and within a limited time frame.

What does it mean that courses will have at least 33% synchronous content?

This means that some faculty will create more opportunities for class engagement to happen at any point during a specified period of time while another faculty might choose to have all class engagement occur at the assigned time. For example, your discussion-based seminar will most likely have 100% synchronous content while an applied course might have a mix of asynchronous and synchronous.

Will attendance be taken in my virtual courses?

Yes. However, the university wide attendance policy emphasizes that attendance needs to be sensitive to the different and changing needs of students and faculty during COVID-19. Faculty have been encouraged to get to know their students' needs (students in China taking a 3 p.m. class in Dallas may find it difficult to attend synchronously). Not all classes will have the same student composition (some will have 15 students, all of whom live in Dallas, and some will have 140 students, many of whom are in different time zones). Faculty are encouraged to make the best pedagogical decisions in their different contexts.

When should I purchase my books?

If you plan to order your books online through the SMU bookstore or through another vendor, we strongly recommend that you do this as

soon as possible.

Where will I attend my virtual courses?

Students approved for the fully remote experience will attend all of their courses at their homes in a space where you can effectively engage in your courses. Students who plan to attend classes on campus will follow the Red/Blue rotation schedule.

How will I engage with my faculty member?

Your faculty members will tell you their preferred form of communication in the beginning of your course. Keep lines of communication open with your faculty members.

How soon will I be able to view my course on Canvas?

Faculty will be publishing their Canvas courses over the next few weeks. Log into your Canvas Dashboard frequently and check for updates. Watch your SMU email for communications from faculty.

How will I access any SMU licensed software necessary for my course?

Go to smu.edu/keeplearning to learn more about OIT resources.

Common Questions About SMU Reserved Zoom

Rooms

Are SMU Zoom Rooms currently available to reserve?

No. The university is currently working to move all of the available rooms to a centralized reservation system to make it easier for students to find them. Once the system is in place we will send a campus-wide announcement with instructions and guidelines for use.

When will I be able to reserve SMU Zoom Rooms and may I reserve the same room for the entire semester?

Undergraduate students will be able to reserve the rooms beginning

Sunday, August 23. Students will be able to reserve up to two weeks in advance for specific periods of time.

What will it be like to share a Zoom Room with other students?

Be considerate of your reservation time (be on time and be aware of those coming after you), clean your space after using, and be aware of the level of engagement in your class before completing your reservation. As an example, you may want a more private space if you are engaging in a discussion course but could share space with someone else if you are listening to a lecture.

Where else can I attend classes remotely?

Not only can you attend class from home or reserve a Zoom Room on campus but you can take advantage of the beautiful SMU campus. Consider bringing a chair or blanket to campus on a beautiful Dallas day and sit outside. We will be providing a map of Wi-Fi coverage for outdoor space when the Zoom Room information is available.

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