

Department Chairs, Associate Deans, and Deans,

With a goal of staying connected on internal governance issues, the Provost Office sends a monthly Roundup on the final Friday of each month to the internal university leadership.

Proposed Rule Change about Duration of Status for International Students. The Department of Homeland Security-US Immigration and Customs Enforcement proposed a rule to end "duration of status" (D/S) for F, J, and I nonimmigrants in the Federal Register on August 28, 2025. Under the proposed rule, instead of being admitted for "duration of status" (D/S) as F & J students currently are (since 1991 for F students and 1993 for J exchange visitors), individuals applying for admission in either F or J status (F-1 students, F-2 dependents, J-1 exchange visitors, and J-2 dependents) would be admitted only until the program end date noted in their Form I-20 or DS-2019, not to exceed 4 years, plus a period of 30 days following their program end date. For students already admitted into the United States with Duration of Status listed on their I-94 they may remain in the United States until their program end date or EAD expiration, not exceeding 4 years plus the 30-day grace period. Since this is at the proposed rule stage, the rule would not become final until after the agency reviews public comments on the proposed rule, submits a final rule for OMB review, and then publishes a final rule in the Federal Register with a future effective date. Read more details and keep updated at the SMU ISSS [News and Alerts link](#). You can also reach out to Claudia Sotomayor Hart at claudiahart@smu.edu.

Disability Accommodations and Success Strategies Reminders: For students with approved accommodations, professors should expect to receive an email notification from the DASS Link system once a student shares their accommodation letter with them. Faculty should log into [DASS Link](#) and view the letter and the student and professor should communicate about the logistics of implementing the accommodations in the letter. If your department would like a 10-15 minute presentation or discussion by DASS, please contact their Director, Alexa Taylor, at alexat@smu.edu.

AY25-26 Common Curriculum Student Assessments. As faculty are teaching summer classes and preparing classes for the Fall, we wanted to remind everyone that the Office of Institutional Planning and Effectiveness (IPE) will be collecting student assessment work in the 2025-2026 academic year for the following Common Curriculum components: Exploring Science (ES), Social and Behavioral Sciences (SBS), Technological Advances and Society (TAS), Global Perspectives (GPS), Human Diversity (HD). All SMU faculty teaching courses with these components in May 2025 through Spring 2026 are required to submit student work that demonstrates attainment of the skills associated with each component. Faculty members teaching courses carrying these components will receive an email survey from the Office of Institutional Planning and Effectiveness just after

the census date in the Fall and Spring terms. This survey is used to gather information about the type of assignment the faculty member will use to assess student learning. Based on the results of this survey the IPE Office will send detailed instructions to each faculty member about how to submit their students' assessment work. During the summer and interterms, faculty will receive instructions for submitting assessment work via Box upload. Please make sure that all new faculty in your departments know whether their courses carry Common Curriculum components, know where to locate the Common Curriculum rubrics, and understand that they are required to assess those components in their courses. If you have questions about Common Curriculum assessment or about documenting curricular improvements, please contact Dr. Dayna Oscherwitz, Dr. Yan Cooksey, or Dr. Brooke Guelker in the Office of Institutional Planning and Effectiveness.

Guidelines for the Use of Generative AI in Dissertations and Theses: These guidelines can now be found in the [Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies section](#) of the SMU Graduate Catalog. They include resources, advice, and expectations for departments; for dissertation and thesis advisors and committee members; and for graduate students working on dissertations and theses. The guidelines were developed by the Moody School Graduate Council, and received input from faculty and student committees including the Faculty Senate Academic Policies Committee (APC), the Academic Affairs Forum, the Faculty Technology Council, and the Moody School Graduate Student Advisory Board. Questions can be directed to Dr. Alan Itkin at aitkin@smu.edu.

The Sterling R. E. Havens Writing Symposium on Opportunities and Challenges of A.I. The English Department is hosting an inaugural symposium with faculty across Texas to address the dynamic future of university writing. This event is free and open to the public, with food provided throughout the day and culminating with a wine reception. Keynote speakers and panels of writing program directors from across Texas will share best practices and discuss how writing programs might evolve and adapt to new technologies. The event will be held on Saturday, September 27, from 10:00-5:00. [Register at this link](#) or contact Stephanie Amsel at samsel@smu.edu.

Keep the community informed about faculty awards: Please let us know if you have received or have been nominated for an award – or if you have nominated an SMU colleague [at this link](#).

We welcome your suggestions for future areas to feature in the monthly roundup; email facultysuccess@smu.edu. You can [find past issues at this link](#).