

Letter to Students from the Provost

June 8, 2020

Students,

With your health and safety in mind, we are shifting the start and end dates of our Fall 2020 academic calendar. The original and updated dates are as follows:

	Original Schedule	Updated Calendar
Move-In Day/Welcome Week Begins	Wednesday, August 19	Saturday, August 8
First Day of Class	Monday, August 24	Thursday, August 13
Labor Day	Holiday; no classes	Regular class day
Last Day of Finals	Thursday, December 10	Tuesday, November 24
Commencement	Friday, December 11	Friday, December 11

We plan to begin the Fall semester returning to normal operations and resuming our classes face-to-face on campus. We recognize it is possible that a surge in local COVID-19 cases could recur at some point in the semester, making it necessary for us to move all classes to an online format for the rest of the term, just as we did in the Spring. Should this be the case, starting the semester earlier will give us additional days in a face-to-face format.

Students will take their final exams and complete their classes prior to the Thanksgiving holiday, and will be able to head home for Thanksgiving and stay there until classes resume in January. This change would mitigate the possibility of students contracting the coronavirus while home for Thanksgiving and then returning to campus and inadvertently spreading the virus to others. Currently our plans call for our Spring semester to begin as scheduled on January 11, 2021.

Commencement will remain as currently scheduled. We believe that the benefits to be gained from the rearrangement of our Fall calendar make it a good choice during this time of pandemic. Your patience and flexibility are appreciated as the details for various campus functions and activities under this new schedule are still under development. Certain student groups typically come to campus earlier than move-in day (resident assistants, student-athletes, band members, etc.). You will be notified separately regarding your respective arrival date.

We are looking forward to seeing you soon!

Cordially,

John S. Vassar
Provost & Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs