

EPC Motions - 2020-21

22 June 2020

A motion was made to amend the academic calendar to begin the Fall semester on Wednesday, 2 September 2020. M/S/C

A motion was made to reduce fall break from two days to one, to be held on Monday, 19 October 2020. M/S/C

23 June 2020

A motion was made to go online post-Thanksgiving. M/S/C

24 June 2020

A motion was made to endorse calendar option B4, with dates and times for final exams pending consultation with the DEIC, the College Interfaith Program, and the Jewish Studies Chair. M/S/C (below)

Option B4: Earlier start date, reduced fall break, online after Thanksgiving, Thanksgiving considerations

# of class days in the week	Significant dates
3	First class day
5	Classes on Labor Day
5	Registration deadline
5	
5	
5	Nobel conference (2 days)
5	
4	One day Fall break – Monday, October 19 Midterm deadline – Wednesday, October 21
5	
5	January registration, withdrawal deadline
5	Spring registration
5	Spring registration
2	Thanksgiving recess – November 25-27
5	Online
2	Online Final class day – Tuesday, December 8 Reading day – Wednesday, December 9 Finals – December 10, 11, 12 and/or 14
Total Days	66
Instruction Weeks	15 (instruction + finals)
Online Days	7 + finals

A motion was made: Pursuant to the decision to go online, we recommend students do not return unnecessarily after Thanksgiving break. M/S/C

7 July 2020

A motion was made to move the opening faculty meeting to a virtual format to be held on Friday, September 4 at 2:30 p.m. M/S/C

14 July 2020

A motion was made to approve the final dates for withdrawal/registration/final grade deadlines. M/S/C (below)

2020 Fall Semester Calendar

Event	Date
Orientation	August 29-September 1
Fall Class Start	September 2
Registration Deadline	September 15
Nobel Conference	October 6-7
First Half Finals	October 16
Fall Break	October 17-19
MidTerm Grades	October 21
Withdraw Deadline	November 6
IEX Registration	November 2-5
Spring Registration	November 9-19
Thanksgiving	November 25-29
Online Classes Begin	November 30
Final Class Day	December 8
Reading Day	December 9
Final Exams	December 10, 11, 14
Fall Semester Ends	December 14
Christmas Recess	December 15-Jan 3
Fall Semester Grade Deadline	January 4 at 8:00

28 July 2020

A motion was made that all students with documented ADA/medical accommodations or documented risk factors (as identified by the CDC) must be accommodated in any class with respect to mode of instruction. Other students not in these groups may choose to live off-campus but must choose their courses from the pool of those offered completely online. M/S/C (below)

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html>

People with Certain Medical Conditions

Updated July 17, 2020

Summary of Recent Changes

Revisions were made on July 17, 2020 to reflect recent data supporting increased risk of severe COVID-19 among individuals with cancer. The listed underlying medical conditions in children were also revised to indicate that these conditions **might** increase risk to better reflect the quality of available data currently. We are learning more about COVID-19 every day, and as new information becomes available, CDC will update the information below.

People of any age with **certain underlying medical conditions** are at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19:

People of any age with the following conditions **are at increased risk** of severe illness from COVID-19:

- [Cancer](#)
- [Chronic kidney disease](#)
- [COPD \(chronic obstructive pulmonary disease\)](#)
- [Immunocompromised state \(weakened immune system\) from solid organ transplant](#)
- [Obesity \(body mass index \[BMI\] of 30 or higher\)](#)
- [Serious heart conditions, such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathies](#)
- [Sickle cell disease](#)
- [Type 2 diabetes mellitus](#)

COVID-19 is a new disease. Currently there are limited data and information about the impact of underlying medical conditions and whether they increase the risk for severe illness from COVID-19. Based on what we know at this time, people with the following conditions **might be at an increased risk** for severe illness from COVID-19:

- [Asthma \(moderate-to-severe\)](#)
- [Cerebrovascular disease \(affects blood vessels and blood supply to the brain\)](#)
- [Cystic fibrosis](#)
- [Hypertension or high blood pressure](#)
- [Immunocompromised state \(weakened immune system\) from blood or bone marrow transplant, immune deficiencies, HIV, use of corticosteroids, or use of other immune weakening medicines](#)
- [Neurologic conditions, such as dementia](#)
- [Liver disease](#)
- [Pregnancy](#)
- [Pulmonary fibrosis \(having damaged or scarred lung tissues\)](#)
- [Smoking](#)
- [Thalassemia \(a type of blood disorder\)](#)
- [Type 1 diabetes mellitus](#)

30 July 2020

A motion was made that a committee chair be elected. M/S/C

A motion was made that the Faculty Senate Chair serve as the chair of the Emergency Planning Committee through the 2020 Fall semester. M/S/C

A motion was made that every faculty member must utilize a Moodle landing page for each course. At a minimum, the Moodle site must 1) contain the course syllabus or link to syllabus, 2) include links to other platforms used for class work, and 3) IF grades are electronically disseminated or posted, it must be through Moodle or Gustavus email. M/S/C

A motion was made that the default grading for fall 2020 will be letter grades, with the option for students to choose pass/fail grading. The deadline for students to request a P/F grade will be determined by faculty vote at either the September or October faculty meeting. All faculty will be expected to enter letter grades, unless the course was P/F to begin with. Faculty shall not ask students to disclose whether they will be requesting a letter grade or P/F for the course. M/S/C

4 August 2020

A motion was made to distribute the message as written. M/S/C

6 August 2020

A motion was made to recommend to the Cabinet that we move the vast majority of instruction online, with the exception of in-person FTS courses and other select programs that could not operate online (e.g., athletic training?) and that we accompany this with a recommendation that we reduce our on-campus student presence to a rate commensurate with single-room residence per public health recommendations. M/S/C

11 August 2020

A motion was made that, in addition to considering the option to start the fall semester at reduced capacity (that is number of students in residence halls), the Cabinet seriously consider a late start to the fall semester around the end of September or early October. M/S/C

12 August 2020

A motion was made to recommend that the Cabinet consider a close-to-on time start (~September 12), but 100% online, with (almost) no students on campus, and then after a few weeks bring back first year, international, and vulnerable students. Two weeks or more after bringing back the first group, consider bringing back other students as warranted by conditions at that time. M/S/C

13 August 2020

A motion was made to recommend that the Cabinet: 1) reconsider the possibility of beginning on September 9, to give faculty and students additional time to prepare for teaching and learning online at the beginning of the semester; 2) plan to spread the first wave of returning students (first-years; support students, including CFs, greeters, and MALTs; international students; and vulnerable students) more widely across resident halls to reduce congestion and potential COVID-19 transmission in common areas;

3) move the date for the return of remaining students to at least October 1, and ideally later into October; and 4) commit now to adhering to current MDH gating criteria to make data-driven decisions about bringing remaining students to campus, and to err on the side of public safety when making that decision. M/S/C

17 August 2020

A motion was made that September 25 will include in-person FTS and CUR-100 courses but no synchronous online content and no major assignments due for any other courses. October 19 will be a fall break day. The last day of classes will be December 9. The last day of finals will be December 15. M/S/C

20 August 2020

A motion was made to grant a one-semester grid schedule exemption for an online section of BIO-101 to meet 2:30-4:30 p.m. Fridays (during common meeting time). The Biology Department is advised to consider that some students may have religious conflicts at the very end of this class time during the late fall months and plan to accommodate accordingly. M/S/C

A motion was made to move the final faculty meeting of Fall 2020 to 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 10. M/S/C

21 August 2020

A motion was made that, for Fall 2020, international students who cannot get to campus due to circumstances beyond their control have access to all courses to which they otherwise would have access, regardless of original mode of instruction. In other words, they must be accommodated with regard to mode of instruction. M/S/C

28 August 2020

A motion was made to accept the Registrar's tentative final exam schedule for Fall 2020 as written. M/S/C

A new motion was made (superseding the previously passed motion) to accept the Registrar's tentative final exam schedule for Fall 2020 with the amendment that there will be no exams scheduled for 6:00-8:00 p.m. Friday, December 11. M/S/C

7 September 2020

A motion was made that that, due to the likelihood of ongoing COVID-19 risk well into 2021, faculty continue to be given the option of teaching courses in an online, hybrid, or in-person (provided that it is safe to do so) format in January and Spring 2021. M/S/C

15 September 2020

A motion was made that the recommendations of the Emergency Online Testing Action Team, with input from EPC (Faculty Emergency Planning Committee) now incorporated, be forwarded to the Office of the Provost for further action. Additionally, the matter of online proctoring shall be reassessed by the EPC

and/or other appropriate bodies (e.g., Faculty Senate, AOC, etc.) in early 2021 with the goal of amending the recommendations, if necessary, and moving them into the Faculty Handbook following a full faculty vote. M/S/C

A motion was made that for all electronic, asynchronous faculty discussions undertaken due to COVID-19, all faculty who would ordinarily enjoy speaking privileges at an in-person faculty meeting be accorded the same discussion privileges electronically. M/S/C

16 September 2020

A motion was made that the EPC attempt to develop a written statement to the Cabinet that summarizes our concerns and/or suggestions about the plan to return everyone to campus. M/S/C

A motion was made to share the “Statement on Next Steps for Fall 2020” with the Provost for communication with the Cabinet and Board of Trustees. M/S/C

1 October 2020

A motion was made to continue using the expanded grid schedule for Spring 2021 that has been in use in Fall 2020. M/S/C

19 October 2020

A motion was made that EPC open an asynchronous discussion on Shared Governance documents on New Resource-Requiring Programs ahead of the November 2020 faculty meeting. M/S/C

22 October 2020

A motion was that the November 2020 and February 2021 faculty meetings revert to their original 2-hour length, to meet from 2:30-4:30 p.m. M/S/C

A motion was made that no change be made to the J-Term academic calendar for 2021 (scheduled Monday, January 4 through Tuesday, January 26). M/S/C

A motion was made that faculty teaching in J-Term 2021 be strongly encouraged to have compelling pedagogical rationales for any in-person work. M/S/C

29 October 2020

A motion was made that for the first week of January Term, all courses will be taught 100% online except for courses that require in-person instruction (e.g., fine arts and science labs). The EPC authorizes the Provost's Office to work with individual instructors to authorize exceptions for in-person instruction. M/S/C

We endorse a two-break calendar model for Spring 2021 (see attached spreadsheet for details) as we do not believe that the elimination of breaks in the academic calendar is a sustainable COVID risk-mitigation strategy due to, e.g., student mental health concerns. However, we believe that this model will only be safe to our community if the first two weeks of Spring semester and the first two weeks following the first, coldest-weather break, are characterized by 100% online instruction (with limited pedagogically-based exceptions possible as implemented in January-term 2021) and significantly curtailed academic

and co-curricular activities. We believe that allowing significant regular activities to proceed during these periods of time will erode the cultural norm of curtailed activity. M/S/C

4 November 2020

A motion was made that the EPC communicates to Cabinet that (1) we would like the March ("first-quarter") break to remain at 4 days; (2) while we would like the dialback to remain as close to 14 days as possible, we are willing to be flexible about the length of the dialback following that break, so as to resume typical mode of instruction on a Monday; (3) we are willing to wait to make a decision about mode of instruction during that dialback; and (4) we think there should be as much consistency of rules as possible among the dialbacks in order to reduce confusion and increase compliance. M/S/C

5 November 2020

A motion was made that planned mode of instruction will continue for the time being amid a period of curtailed in-person campus activities. Instruction will go online-only for Monday and Tuesday, November 23 and 24, 2020. M/S/C

10 November 2020

A motion was made that that commencement for the 2020 class be held on the same weekend (May 15/16) as that for the 2021 class to optimize effort related to logistics and faculty participation in these events. M/S/C

13 November 2020

A motion was made that that EPC issue a joint statement with the Office of the Provost regarding the plan for the academic program following the mass testing event of Friday, November 13, 2020. In particular, we are not recommending any changes to the current lay-low plan from now until the planned transition to online-only instruction on Monday, November 23. M/S/C

5 January 2021

A motion was made that the withdrawal deadline for J-Term 2021 be set for 4:00 pm on Tuesday, January 26, 2021. M/S/C

26 January 2021

A motion was made that "If an international student is unable to access a synchronous class due to time zone difficulties, the instructor could record the class and make it accessible to specific students rather than the entire class." M/S/C

23 February 2021

A motion was made that a scheduling grid inclusive of evening hours (similar to that used in Fall 2020) be implemented again for Fall 2021. M/S/C

2 March 2021

A motion was made to endorse the current plan for Commencement ceremonies for the classes of 2020 and 2021, as described in recent documentation and discussion from the Provost's Office. M/S/C

30 March 2021

A motion was made that the EPC endorse planning for 3 feet of social distancing in classrooms for fall 2021 courses. M/S/C

4 May 2021

After reviewing the CICE recommendation for updating the travel policy, the EPC supports lifting the blanket campus travel prohibition. We also support the requirement of vaccination for such travel but request that the policy for exemptions to this requirement be formalized (e.g., as for pre-COVID vaccination exemptions) and be clearly communicated. We further emphasize that we only support this policy insofar as it is applied consistently and equitably across campus groups. M/S/C