



Happy Friday!

As we get closer to the start of fall semester, I hope that you have taken a few minutes to check your schedule in My.SMU to see which of your courses will be delivered in a remote format and which will be offered in an assigned building and room on campus. Below is a breakdown of the two class formats SMU will offer:

**REMOTE** courses are ideal for students who need and want minimal interaction on campus. Students who want an exclusively remote experience for the fall should [read more about this opportunity](#) and complete the survey to request a letter of support for a fully remote experience. Students may enroll in as many **REMOTE** courses as they prefer.

- **REMOTE** courses will have some synchronous content delivered via Zoom at the assigned time listed in My.SMU
- **REMOTE** courses will be managed through Canvas, our learning management system (LMS)
- Faculty teaching in this format have spent many hours this summer 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)

SMUFlex is the dominant class format for fall 2020. SMU has spent thousands of hours and over a million dollars on improvements to classroom technology to enable the SMUFlex model. See [examples](#) of what the classrooms might look like.

- SMUFlex classes will be delivered 100% at the scheduled time in a room on campus
- Students are expected to attend class as long as they are feeling well and have not been asked to self-quarantine. To ensure this, faculty will not use punitive attendance policies 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](#))
- For students unable to attend in-person, class will be delivered in real-time via Zoom
  - Students engaging remotely will be expected to have their cameras on unless you are experiencing technical limitations

## REMOTE and SMUFlex

Both formats will share many characteristics to help students and faculty manage unexpected changes that might take place.

- An additional 5 minutes will be added between classes to help transition between courses
- Class recordings will be maintained and available for all students to access throughout the semester (privacy concerns will be addressed on the SMU website dedicated to support [classroom learning](#))
- Faculty office hours will be at a set time and/or by appointment; office hours will be available via Zoom and in-person when socially distanced interactions can safely take place

We are all excited to adopt this new approach to teaching and learning in the fall so that we can safely return to campus. As part of this effort, the SMU Community Action Network (SMU CAN) was established last month to support greater understanding and adoption of the personal responsibilities (e.g., regular handwashing, social distancing, face coverings, self-monitoring and reporting in the event of exposure to COVID-19, and taking additional proactive measures such as flu shots, all in a spirit of cooperation). SMU CAN includes members from

SMU's faculty, staff, and student communities, including Student Senate, whose leaders have committed to promoting the need for personal responsibilities among students. As a first step to promote a safe return, SMU CAN has developed a community "pledge to protect" which we will be encouraging all community members to review and sign.

Over the next few weeks, I will continue to update you on changes and provide additional information about your academic experience in the fall. I know you have many questions and we are working to provide you with answers. For example, are you wondering where you might attend your REMOTE courses while on campus? Tune in next week for more details and information about ZOOM ROOMS!

Sincerely,

Dr. Kunovich

Associate Provost for Student Academic Engagement and Success