



Hello Mustangs!

Can you believe we are mid-way through summer? We recognize these have been challenging times and want to thank you for your patience as we develop and communicate plans for the fall. We want to assure you that SMU's faculty and staff have been hard at work to chart the right path and can't wait to see you back on campus. During the next few weeks, you will see an increase in communication about changes big and small for the fall 2020 semester. Today's message focuses on course schedules and course formats.

We believe it is important to avoid making significant changes to your fall course schedule. To limit the number of scheduling changes this fall, there will be two primary course formats available: (1) SMUFlex (courses offered face to face and simultaneously available for remote participation) and (2) online-only. We will be offering as many courses as possible, following CDC guidelines, in the SMUFlex format to promote face to face instruction. Our faculty are also working hard this summer to prepare a wide variety of course options in the online-only format. We want to reassure you that, regardless of the format, all classes will remain at the same time and days as originally scheduled.

We all learned a lot about teaching and learning remotely in the spring. As you know, SMU is committed to continuing to improve the experience and we have invested in new technologies, engaged in extensive training, and are ready to meet the challenges that teaching in the fall is likely to present. In closing, we wanted to share a bit more about SMU online-only courses specifically, as these are a new feature and will be visible in My.SMU.

The SMU online courses are perfect for students who need a fully remote academic and co-curricular experience, students who enjoyed and thrived during their remote experience in the spring, and students who want to limit their in-person academic engagements. If you are wondering if any of your courses will be offered online, log into My.SMU and check out your fall schedule. If one of your courses will be taught online, you will notice that the class location indicates "REMOTE" where your other courses still have an assigned building and room.

At this point, many of you will be excited about the online format while others might have concerns. Please know that this is phase one of updating information in My.SMU. We ask for your patience as we continue to update information in the system over the next few weeks.

There is still plenty of time for you to consider and discuss possible schedule changes with your advisor or through searching My.SMU for alternative sections that will be offered in the SMUFlex format (remember, courses taught in the SMUFlex format are still assigned with a building and room). Since only a small proportion of our courses are moving exclusively to an online format we decided not to make all students “re-enroll.” For those interested in online options, we hope that you will take the next few weeks to review the available options in My.SMU and to adjust your schedule. Any student wanting a fully remote experience for Fall 2020 should review the information [linked](#) here.

Next week we will be telling you more about the SMUFlex format and other exciting changes to the fall academic experience.

Dr. Kunovich

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