

MC FALL 2020 Recovery Plan

DETAILS AND SHARED ASSUMPTIONS

The *MC FALL 2020 Recovery Plan* addresses concerns of students who wanted to return to campus and attempts to mitigate a return of Covid-19 infection rates projected for later in the fall by starting classes early, incorporating cleaning and masks/social distancing, and wrapping up before Thanksgiving—to create a safe environment for our community and a meaningful student experience.

MC Fall 2020 Recovery Plan Details:

This plan aims to take advantage of hot weather, get a lot of instruction done before cold and flu season hits, build in flexible time if we have to take a pause, assumes all courses will have some tech-based element of delivery, even if we are all able to be face to face, and tries to limit travel during the semester as much as possible with a compressed schedule. It presumes that students living in residence halls may not always maintain social distancing, and that with a few exceptions, the people at greater risk may well be the faculty and staff.

Instruction Begins: Monday August 17th

Midterm Grades Due: September 30th

Last Day of Classes: Tuesday November 17th

Reading Days: November 14th and 15th

Finals Week: November 18th-24th

Grades Due: 9am December 3rd

- We go 14 weeks plus two days (best case scenario) on campus, including finals.

Scheduling a 14+ week semester and maintaining our credit hour status with the HLC will require that each class has additional contact time (with the corresponding amount of out of class work) scheduled per credit. This should assume an additional 50 additional minutes per credit added over the semester. (For a three-credit course we would then expect faculty to make up for the lost 150 minutes of instruction that a 14 week term creates.) This extra time can be in many forms, including but not limited to student presentations and additional lab sessions.

Please note! There are two additional instruction days included in this schedule: Monday November 16th and Tuesday November 17th. These two days may be used, within the existing course schedule, to provide additional instruction time needed (and discussed above) to meet HLC guidelines. This is at the discretion of the faculty member, but should be clearly explained in every syllabus. These are NOT switch days, but merely a little more calendar space to maneuver in academically. We have also built in weekend “reading days” for students to offer them more study time.

- If we are in person, Finals Week is in person (ALL proctored tests, in person or with proctoring services if there is a medical need) and completed before Thanksgiving.

- There will be two final exam periods per day, for seven days, 8am-noon and 1pm-5pm.
- Once students leave campus for Thanksgiving, there is no returning until Spring 2021.
- Every course has some online element every week (even if it's a quiz or office hour), so we stay sharp and it is less disruptive if we have to transition.
- Dual Delivery courses, if faculty wish to limit exposure, can also work, even if we are not disrupted.
- Nothing can be completely asynchronous or without a live/in person/on screen element.
- Every course has a back-up plan to go virtual for 2 to 4 weeks, in worst case.
- Students may stay on campus if we go virtual, if safety and government regulations allow.
- If we must, we have the ability to use the first week in December for finals, or to go into January for end of semester or finals week.
- No Fall Break
- No switch days
- We teach, work, and learn on Labor Day. (Not forever, just for this fall.)

Shared Assumptions for the MC Fall 2020 Recovery Plan:

- There will be testing protocol for students, online options, and proctoring.
- There will be common campus expectations about social distancing and hand washing.
- Everyone wears a mask unless in their residence hall rooms/offices—no non-medical based exceptions.
- Protection, mitigation, cleaning in all offices and classrooms.
- We will take advantage of weather and be outside whenever possible.
- Special programs (Excel, etc.) can be delivered in new ways and formats, before and after the beginning of classes.
- Alternative housing for students who are experiencing symptoms or test positive will be identified.
- We need accommodations for students who need 100% online delivery.
- We need EVERY course to have virtual elements included every week, but we will strive to ensure that dual delivery offers the same quality of instruction as 100% face to face.
- Nothing will be entirely asynchronous; no classes will be taught without weekly meaningful live interaction among students and faculty.
- Some courses will be designed and delivered online/dual delivery no matter what happens—faculty planning this need to participate in the summer training to perfect their online pedagogy skills.
- We must be prepared to pause, pivot, change, and adapt—ready to go online or back face to face with minimum of disruption.
- We are subject to governmental rule and directives.
- We will do our best to limit travel, traffic on campus, and large groups.
- Summer will be spent training and preparing for these challenges.
- December will give faculty some additional free time to engage in scholarship if they wish to account for the expectations we have for the summer of 2020.

Other Considerations:

We may employ some form of a winter inter-session or “J-term” for the purposes of:

- Offering experiential learning (perhaps virtually)
- Completing labs or finals if fall semester is substantively interrupted
- Spreading out the course offerings to teach fewer classes in the spring

The dates to begin Spring 2021 semester will be addressed as we know more, taking into account that we have a great deal of flexibility in our calendar.

Some Common Terminology:

Asynchronous – material put online to be looked at or engaged with by students at another time.

Dual-delivery (DD) – class delivered online and FTF simultaneously.

FTF – face-to-face; traditional class delivered in person.

Hybrid Class –class with both online and in-person elements; online may be asynchronous, synchronous, or both. Generally, it’s a 50/50 split between online and in-person.

Online: delivered over internet, may be synchronous, asynchronous, or both.

Synchronous: all parties meeting in real time, during the scheduled class period, either in person or via a platform such as Zoom.