

301 Lake Street, Dallas, PA 18612-1090

DATE: June 8, 2020

TO: Misericordia University Students

FROM: Thomas J. Botzman, Ph.D., President

SUBJECT: Fall 2020 Academic Calendar

As was stated earlier, Misericordia University intends to open campus this fall and operate in as traditional a format as possible. Various groups are meeting and developing the plan to provide a safe environment for in-person instruction and campus life. We appreciate all that you as students have done to adapt to the necessary changes brought on by the pandemic.

We have been thinking innovatively about the fall academic calendar. Health officials warn of a possible resurgence of the COVID-19 virus that may coincide with the onset of the traditional flu season in late fall.

Therefore, Misericordia University will begin classes on Thursday, August 20 and have classes run continuously up to November 24. (no Labor Day holiday; no two-day fall break). Students would leave campus, complete remaining instruction and final exams remotely, and not return until the start of the spring semester. This adaptation is our best attempt to preserve the highly valuable and, in some cases, necessary on-campus instruction and experiences for students and avoid the most likely period for a COVID rebound. This schedule change is not ideal for some of our programs; however, the goal of completing the semester without interruption is a worthwhile one. Many other universities, both our size and others of national scope, are choosing a similar approach to fall scheduling.

A detailed and revised academic calendar will be completed and posted soon to myMU. As our task forces continue their work, the leadership team will keep everyone updated on the steps being taken in residence life, classroom management, food service, and other areas to preserve the health and well-being of our students, faculty, and staff as we implement a controlled resumption of modified, but more normal, operations.

I extend my continued best wishes to you all.