Fall 2020 - Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Where can I find Fall 2020 decisions approved by the University? (Highly suggested that you read this webpage)
A: https://provost.tamu.edu/Campus-Messages/Fall-2020-Courses-at-TAMU

Q: When does the Fall semester start?
A: Wednesday, August 19th

Q: When is the last day of instruction?
A: Tuesday, November 24th. No additional face-to-face meetings will be held. All assignments and projects that require face-to-face interaction must be completed at this time. The only remaining graded activities that are permissible are those which may be accomplished remotely and final exams. Reading days are Wednesday, November 25th and Monday, November 30th. No classes, exams, or other university-related graded activity may be scheduled for these days. Instructors may hold virtual office hours and review sessions. Final exams for most programs are scheduled from Tuesday, December 1st through Wednesday, December 9th, and all final exams will be administered online.

Q: How are Fall 2020 courses being taught?
A: In three (3) modes of delivery:

1. Face-to-Face
   - All face-to-face courses will be synchronously streamed live via Zoom
   - Instructors will provide mechanism for students attending virtually via Zoom to interact with the face-to-face course, such as the chat feature in Zoom
   - Students will be socially distanced inside the classroom
   - Some classrooms require that instructors rotate students for face-to-face instruction, so that all students have an opportunity to be inside the classroom at least once a week. (See section 3.1.1 for details on https://provost.tamu.edu/Campus-Messages/Fall-2020-Courses-at-TAMU)
   - If you do not feel comfortable being in the classroom or you are not living in BCS, students may choose to attend a face-to-face course virtually by attending the lecture via Zoom. You will inform your instructor that you are choosing this method.
   - Instructors can require that you turn on your web cam for Zoom sessions
   - Face masks must be worn on campus. Students with an approved exemption to not wear a face mask must communicate this to their instructors. Individuals with a TAMU-issued exemption should wear a face shield if consistent with ADA accommodations. (See section 3.1.2 https://provost.tamu.edu/Campus-Messages/Fall-2020-Courses-at-TAMU)

2. Remote
   - Not face-to-face
   - Synchronous online (live in real time) lectures/instruction/discussion via Zoom, held during scheduled class days/times.
   - Instructors will provide mechanisms for students to ask questions, such as using the chat function.
   - See section 3.2 https://provost.tamu.edu/Campus-Messages/Fall-2020-Courses-at-TAMU

3. Online
   - Not face-to-face
   - Instruction may be delivered synchronously or asynchronously
   - See section 3.3 https://provost.tamu.edu/Campus-Messages/Fall-2020-Courses-at-TAMU
**Q: What is the difference between synchronous and asynchronous?**

A: **Synchronous** instruction occurs in real time using interaction videoconferencing (Zoom). Basically, it means you are attending lecture live via Zoom during the scheduled day/time of course.

Asynchronous instruction does not occur in real time (live). The instructor provides content that the student can access electronically, generally at a time convenient for the student. You will still have instructor-created deadlines.

**Q: How do I know which method my courses are being taught?**

A: Go to Howdy > My Profile > on the top left corner, make sure Fall 2020 term is selected > to the right of Graphic Schedule, click Schedule. From there you can click the individual courses. It will pop up a window. Click Instructor/Meeting Times. Examples are below:

**Face-to-face will look like:**

- Instructor: [Name]
- Days: [Days of the week]
- Time: [Time of the course]
- Location: [Campus, Room Number]

*Note, it shows a building and room number and shows highlighted scheduled days/time. This means you will be attending lecture face-to-face at least once a week, if you choose to attend face-to-face at all.

**Remote will look like:**

- Instructor: [Name]
- Days: [Days of the week]
- Time: [Time of the course]
- Location: [Meeting Online, Room Online]

*Note, it shows “Meeting Online” & “Room Online”, but shows highlighted scheduled days/time. This means you will be attending lecture live via Zoom on those days/times.

**Online will look like:**

- Instructor: [Name]
- Days: [Days of the week]
- Time: [Time of the course]
- Location: [Meeting Online, Room Online]

*Note, it shows “Meeting Online” & “Room Online”, but shows no highlighted scheduled days/time. This means you will not be attending lecture live via Zoom. This is an asynchronous course.

**Q: If I do not feel comfortable or do not want to attend face-to-face courses, but my schedule shows face-to-face courses, what do I do?**

A: You do not have to change your course schedule to remote or online courses, if you do not want to. You can keep the face-to-face courses. You will simply inform your instructor that you will only be attending via Zoom.

**Q: When can we change our Fall schedule?**

A: Open registration is 8:00am CT, Monday, July 27th to 5:00pm CT, Tuesday, August 18th
Q: Will RPTS be opening any more seats for Fall 2020 courses?
A: On Friday, July 24th, RPTS will open any seats we have left. You can change your schedule starting on Monday, July 27th at 8:00am CT

Q: For a face-to-face course, how/when will we know which days of the week we are scheduled to attend in the classroom?
A: Your instructor will notify you closer to August 19.

Q: Do I have the option of completing the entire fall semester at home?
A: Students shall not be required to attend any face-to-face lecture class. In general, students should not be required to be on campus with the exception of professional programs that must meet strict accreditation and licensure requirements. (https://provost.tamu.edu/Campus-Messages/Fall-2020-Courses-at-TAMU)

Q: I am in the Corps of Cadets; do I have to be on campus for Fall 2020?
A: Please see answer provided by BG Ramirez: https://corps.tamu.edu/coronavirus/

Q: Is there required technology for Fall 2020?
A: Yes. The requirements are found at https://aglifesciences.tamu.edu/undergraduate/required-tech/

Q: What is the policy on face coverings?
A: https://provost.tamu.edu/Menu/News/TAMU-Face-Covering-FAQs

Q: Is there a required COVID-19 training and certification?
A: Yes. All students, regardless of where you are taking classes, are required to complete the COVID-19 Training and Certification no later than Aug. 11, 2020. If you are returning to campus before Aug. 11, you must complete the training prior to arriving on campus. This training is in your Howdy portal.

Q: Is there a guide for returning in Fall 2020?

Q: Will TAMU student resources be available remotely/virtually?