

From: [Office of the MSU Provost](#)
Subject: Additional details for Faculty regarding Fall Semester
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Attachments: [image004.png](#)



MONTANA
STATE UNIVERSITY

Office of the Provost

Dear Faculty Colleagues,

As you just read in the President's email to campus, we will be starting Fall Semester 2020 two weeks earlier than scheduled, which aligns with guidelines provided to the Montana University System from Commissioner Christian. The first day of classes will be **Monday, Aug. 17, 2020** rather than Monday, Aug. 31. Additionally, the semester will end on **Wednesday, Nov. 25**.

For faculty, this means the 2020-2021 academic contract year will span from Monday, August 10, 2020 to May 10, 2021.

In addition to the calendar adjustments, we will be implementing many good hygiene measures to reduce the risk of infection spread to students, faculty and staff in the classroom and on campus. Classroom seating will be separated by 6 feet. Meticulous adherence to public health practices and protocols will be implemented and communicated widely and regularly to faculty, students and staff including items such as hand washing, physical distancing, proper cough/sneeze etiquette, frequent disinfection of common and high traffic areas, symptom assessment, personal temperature checking (if vulnerable) and face coverings in public.

With your creative and innovative efforts, we will offer a range of in-person, online and blended course options to reduce the density of students in our classrooms. We are examining many other steps to reduce risk, including enhanced cleaning protocols and other social distancing measures. We will continue to communicate these plans over the summer.

Throughout the summer and more intensively during the week of August 10, before classes begin, the Center for Faculty Excellence and Academic Technology and Outreach will be providing training for online and blended teaching, as well as training and guidance on social distancing in the classroom and sanitation practices for faculty. Faculty can check the Center for Faculty Excellence website regularly and watch for messages on CFE programming throughout the summer.

We ask faculty to please plan to be here and work with CFE and ATO during this time to be sure that you are ready to begin your classes practiced in new pedagogy and classroom management. We will strive to help you be prepared

for, and be successful with, a semester unlike any we've ever experienced.

Montana State, your university, is working hard to mitigate the risk factors for students, faculty and staff while fulfilling our educational, research and outreach mission - a mission that is more important now than ever to our students, our state, nation and world.

I am so grateful to you for your effort this spring semester. I know it wasn't easy. Planning and work around preparing for fall will continue throughout the summer. I appreciate the efforts of many faculty and staff who have already volunteered to make themselves available to participate in identifying solutions to the challenges we face in our preparations. We look forward to your partnership this coming fall.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bob".

Robert Mokwa
Provost and Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs
Montana State University

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