



Richard Eglsaer

Sam Houston State University

MEMBER THE TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

OFFICE OF THE PROVOST AND VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Dear Bearkat,

This fall will be an unusual but exciting time at Sam Houston State University. We are eager to see you back on campus; however, in light of the COVID-19 crisis, we are taking steps to reduce the campus density while providing you with weekly access to face-to-face learning opportunities with your classmates and instructors.

To accomplish this schedule, we are adopting a blended format for most of our face-to-face classes. In order for you to learn as much as possible during the semester, we want you to spend time with your classmates and with your instructors. But we also want our students, staff and faculty to stay healthy by being able to keep a safe distance from each other. This blended option allows for both. The blended model for our courses means there will be fewer students on campus on any given day. Reducing *student density* on campus every day – along with wearing facial coverings and washing hands frequently – can help stop the spread of COVID-19 and allow you to enjoy the benefits of the university experience.

Here are some examples of blended delivery:

- A Tuesday/Thursday course might split the class into two groups. Each group attends class in-person either Tuesday or Thursday while the other group participates via Zoom.
- A large Monday/Wednesday/Friday course might split the class into three groups. Each group attends face-to-face in the classroom one day each week while the other two groups participate via Zoom.

There are different types of blended schedules, so know that faculty are working to make sure that the most appropriate format is used for your specific courses. You will need to check the course syllabus on Blackboard to determine the exact arrangement for each of your courses.

Updates:

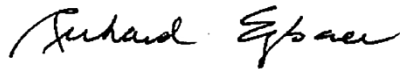
- The course schedule for fall 2020 has been updated to add additional information concerning delivery method. For example, courses that are moving to a blended format will include additional information to help

you better plan for your classes. To review the instructions on how to view your updated course schedule, visit:

<https://www.shsu.edu/dept/registrar/students/registration/how-to.html>.

- Blackboard will open to registered students on August 1. Most course materials will not be viewable until the start of the fall semester; however, at this time the Blackboard course site will indicate how often the class will meet, your textbook, and other preliminary materials. Instructors will add additional information as the semester begins.
- You can still add or drop courses. Please contact your academic advisor if you have questions. Please remember that we are here to help, so you don't have to make decisions on your own.
- In addition to the changes in the classroom, we are also providing flexible access to tutoring, advising, and mentoring. These services will be available both virtually and face-to-face.
- As you prepare for this semester, please familiarize yourself with our [new Restart 2020 website](#). It contains many of the answers you need in order to take an active role in our community.

We all look forward to the time when we can once again socialize with our friends without worrying about social distancing. In the meantime, let us move forward with confidence that we can share a vibrant university community while being safe. This fall semester will look different, but what will not change is our unwavering commitment to student success and the transformative power of a dynamic university experience.



Richard Eglsaer, Ph.D.

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

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