

Subject: Changes for Campus Classes Following Thanksgiving Break
Date: Friday, October 16, 2020 at 3:13:46 PM Central Daylight Time
From: UWA President
To: All Faculty and Staff, All Students
Attachments: image001.gif, image002.png, image003.png, image004.png, image005.png, image006.png



A Message from UWA President Ken Tucker

Dear UWA Family,

As plans continue to develop for the end of the semester and the coming spring semester, we are evaluating the needs and resources of the entire campus community. I appreciate the support and insight that have been provided by faculty, staff, and students throughout campus. Our campus has fared relatively well thus far, our numbers have remained very manageable, and an overall healthy and safe environment has been maintained—only through cooperation and precaution that we have all shown together.

Ongoing review of our region and state's overall health climate gives good reason for us to proactively adjust our operations now for the end of this semester. The following schedule will be adopted:

- November 20 Last day of in-person class meetings
- November 23-27 Thanksgiving Break
- November 30-December 3 Campus classes conducted virtually
- December 4-10 Final exams conducted virtually

Note that this change affects a four-day period of classes, November 30 through December 3, which is only two meetings for most classes. Exams will also be conducted in a virtual format or some alternative method as decided by the professor. During this time, campus will remain open and operations will continue as normal, as long as state and healthcare guidance allows.

Housing and student-related services will remain open. We recognize that many students would have very limited reliable internet access in rural areas across the state and beyond, and we will do everything we can to help ensure students have access to technology and other accommodations here on campus. Computer labs will remain open for students who need access. Administrative offices will remain open, and faculty will maintain regular office hours, operating from campus offices during scheduled class meeting times and conducting instruction from their offices via Zoom or other technology platforms.

This decision is based partly on further minimizing personal contact and potential exposure as we strive to be healthy and well for the week of final exams, even graduation for some. A hybrid graduation ceremony with limited attendance (like the one held in July) remains scheduled for December 12.

We are all ready for the extended Christmas break, and my hope is that we can enter that in good health, with the completion of a productive semester under our belts. This semester—this entire year—has certainly been trying for everyone, and a strong and successful finish depends so heavily on good health. Flexibility and cooperation from UWA faculty, staff, and students have proven invaluable, even critical, in navigating this year. My hope is that we can positively build on the experience gained through the spring transition and complete this semester successfully, too.

Take care and be safe,



Ken Tucker, Ph.D.

President

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[Download the Operational Plan for Fall Semester 2020](#)

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