

September 14, 2020

Dear Iowa State Community,

In order to assist all faculty, staff, and students with planning for the current academic year, we want to provide the timeline for the spring semester and information about an optional online winter term, which will feature a targeted selection of courses.

**Spring semester starts Monday, January 25.** We received approval from the Board of Regents to change our start date for the spring semester. Spring classes will start January 25, two weeks later than planned. There will be no spring break; classes will be held the week of March 15-19.

**Spring semester ends Thursday, May 6.** The spring semester, including final exams, will end as originally scheduled on May 6.

**Course delivery.** Like the fall, spring courses will be offered in four [delivery modes](#): face-to-face, online, hybrid, and arranged. Classrooms and lecture halls will continue to have limited capacity. Our objective is to provide in-person learning, particularly for experiential courses, labs, and studios, while also providing flexibility for students and instructors who are more comfortable with virtual classes.

**Online winter term option.** We are planning for an optional five-week online winter term, featuring a targeted selection of courses, beginning December 14, and ending January 21. The addition of winter classes will offer students a way to work ahead in meeting their graduation requirements. Additional information about the online winter term, including class schedules, will be made available in the coming weeks.

**Show you care.** As we progress through the fall semester and into the spring, keep showing that [Cyclones Care](#). We expect the face covering requirement will remain in place this spring, as well as the [health protocols](#) for isolation, quarantine, COVID-19 testing, and self-reporting.

**Supporting students.** Finally, I want to take a moment to recognize our faculty, staff, and graduate students who have responded with innovation, creativity, and humor to provide a quality experience for both virtual and in-person courses, and be positive role models during this challenging time. [Chelsea Davis posted a story](#) and [Jeff Budlong wrote an article](#) for Inside Iowa State, both highlighting some of the great efforts to make the fall academic experience successful and fun.

Wendy Wintersteen  
President