ComArtSci Undergraduate Students,

Whether fall 20 was your first semester at MSU, your last, or somewhere in between, I’m sure it has not felt the way you expected. You are not alone in that experience as faculty, advisors and staff are also missing their routines, experiencing isolation and longing for things to feel more predictable, safe and secure. However, as Spartans, we find ways to make things work, even in the face of adversity. With this in mind, I write to provide you with some updates, including tweaks for fall 20 and early previews for spring 21.

President Stanley has approved NR-C (No Record-COVID), which will be automatically implemented as a substitute grade for any class earning a 0.0 during fall 20.  For classes with grades of 1.0 and 1.5, you will be able to choose if you want an NR-C for grades, but be aware that if you opt into NR-C, you will not earn credit for those classes. You do not have to elect the NR-C option and can always keep the 1.0 or 1.5 numerical grade(s). You are STRONGLY encouraged to work with your academic advisor to understand the implications of your choice.

**Revisions to the spring 21 academic calendar that you should know**:

* Spring semester for undergraduate classes will start as scheduled Jan. 11, 2021.
* MSU will join most of the other Big Ten universities in canceling spring break in 2021.
* The spring calendar will include three midweek days without classes spread throughout the semester to provide breaks for students. These dates will be announced by the President and Provost in the upcoming weeks.
* Undergraduate instruction will end April 23, 2021. Finals week will be April 26-April 30, 2021.
* April 30 – May 9, 2021 will provide a weeklong period for graduation ceremonies. Specific College Graduation ceremony dates will be available soon.

**Ways campus will differ in spring 21:**

* Approximately 2,500 additional single-occupancy residence hall spaces will be available to students who want or need to live on campus.
* MSU will offer 400 in-person or hybrid sections of classes, with a focus on courses that students need in order to graduate on time.
* As part of a COVID-19 testing program, MSU will require participation in the [COVID-19 Early Detection Program](http://click.cabs.msu.edu/t/gcH1AAkbaCP-5QAJIy30n0FpaB1uT3P8aaaaB1uBPZDE4maa?j=B_rJuA~amp;T=repVwQxv~25Eqwi4.Unk~amp;v=U~amp;7=) for students living on campus and undergraduate students coming to campus.

**Things that YOU should do NOW:**

* Review your Spring 2021 class schedule at [schedule.msu.edu](http://schedule.msu.edu/) for delivery modes, times, and location details.  If you need to alter your spring schedule here are [instructions](https://schedule.msu.edu/instructions.aspx) on how to search for courses, review search results, use schedule builder and schedule generator.
* Carefully read communications that apply to undergraduate instruction.  If you are confused on whether it applies to you, contact your advisor.
* If you are an international student, we know that you are facing additional challenges regarding travel, visas, worries about leaving family and navigating public health fears.  The [Office for International Students and Scholars (OISS)](https://oiss.isp.msu.edu/) is monitoring the situation closely and urging the government to publish guidance for Spring 2021.  Here is a link to the most up-to-date [information](https://oiss.isp.msu.edu/health-wellness-and-safety/covid-19-information/). Please contact an [OISS advisor](https://oiss.isp.msu.edu/about/location/), if you have questions.
* If you are a first-year or new transfer student please remain connected with your [Circles of Success mentor](https://nssc.msu.edu/mentor-program/index.html)s. If you have not yet joined this program, [login](https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9nLdiCEpjBOgPg9) to connect with a mentor today.
* If you are a returning student this fall, consider taking advantage of [mentoring and coaching opportunities](https://remote.msu.edu/learning/mentoring-coaching.html)  across campus that support your student success.
* Check out the [Keep Learning](https://remote.msu.edu/learning/) website.  It is continually updated with resources and information based on feedback.  This along with the [Together We Will](https://msu.edu/together-we-will/) website, will continue to have new information throughout Spring 21.
* Carefully read the ComArtSci Student Weekly emailed to you on Mondays.  It provides academic advising and career center updates, events and activities you can participate in, information on student group meetings, as well as other updates in and around campus.

I know this is a lot to take in. Keep this information handy so you can refer back as necessary. Contact your academic advisors if you have questions.



My Best,

Prabu David

Dean, College of Communication Arts and Sciences