REGISTRAR UPDATES

SPRING 2022 ACADEMIC CALENDAR CHANGES

FINALS WEEK

Finals week for spring 2022 will now be taking place Monday, May 2 through Thursday, May 5. The first part of the commencement activities, Topper Walk and the spring 2022 Commencement Ceremony, will kick-off on Thursday evening at 6:30 PM. For a complete list of the spring 2022 finals week schedule changes please visit: https://www.wku.edu/registrar/academic_calendars/final_exam_schedule/spring_final_schedule.php
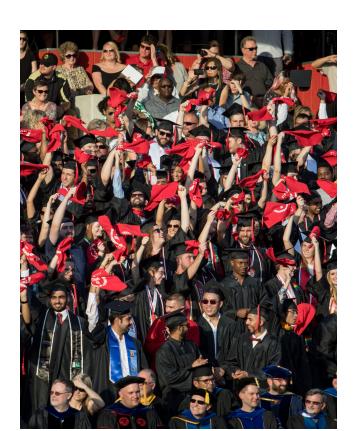
SPRING 2022 ACADEMIC CALENDAR CHANGES

COMMENCEMENT

Spring 2022 Commencement Ceremony will take place on Thursday, May 5 with College Recognition Ceremonies now taking place on Friday, May 6. The most up to date information on WKU's Commencement Schedule can be found here: www.wku.edu/commencement.

FALL 2021
IMPORTANT DATES

OCT 18 | PRIORITY REGISTRATION FOR SPRING
         2022 BEGINS

NOV 1 | LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW FROM A FULL SEMESTER COURSE

NOV 24-26 | THANKSGIVING BREAK (UNIVERSITY CLOSED)

DEC 6-10 | FINALS WEEK

DEC 10 | ENCOURAGE SPRING 2022 GRADUATES TO APPLY FOR
         GRADUATION

DEC 11 | COLLEGE RECOGNITION CEREMONIES

DEC 14 | FINAL GRADES DUE BY NOON

REGISTRAR TEAM

Adam Ashby
Coordinator, Student Records
and Registration

Jessica Dorris
Assistant Registrar

Jennifer Hammonds
University Registrar

Dana Jones
Degree Certification Officer
(A-K)

Rhonda Jones
Student Records Specialist

Marleen Murphy
Scheduling Coordinator

Jordan Ray
Associate Registrar

Leslie Vanderpool
Coordinator, NCAA Compliance

Marsha Wagoner
Degree Certification Officer
(L-Z)

Ryan Wilson
Curriculum Coordinator

FERPA/BLACKBOARD

FERPA CONCERNS

For students who have exercised their rights under FERPA to place a block on release of any directory information, we are legally not allowed to show even the names of students to students in other sections. The US Department of Education (USDOE) does allow students within a course to see the names (but not contact information) for other students in the course - just as they would see them in the classroom - but does not allow this across courses.

Additionally, when the courses have different faculty, merging them into a single Bb course would give faculty members access to academic record information for which they do not have a legitimate educational interest under FERPA.

BLACKBOARD MERGE REVIEW PROCESS

The Office of the University Registrar will review requests for Blackboard course merges, weighing all information available at the time of the review. The review takes into account information such as course levels, student use of certain Bb tools, student confidentiality holds, and pedagogical need. After add/drop, a final review of all merged Bb courses will take place to reconfirm that FERPA concerns do not exist.

WHAT MERGES NEED REVIEW?

Merges of courses that are not cross-listed in Banner require review prior to the Bb course merge to ensure there are no FERPA concerns. This includes one instructor choosing to merge multiple sections of their own courses into one Bb course, and multiple instructors choosing to merge each of their sections into one Bb course. If the courses are taught by different primary instructors, but each instructor is listed in Banner as a secondary instructor on the other's course, concerns regarding faculty access to academic record information may be mitigated.

If certain Bb tools will not be available for student use (student send email, class roster, discussions, groups, wikis, and blogs), the request to merge will have a simpler review process. If one or more of those Bb tools will be available for student use, the review to confirm FERPA concerns do not exist may be more complex.

For more information on filing a Request to Merge Blackboard Courses, please visit: https://www.wku.edu/registrar/ferpa/ferpa_faculty.php.

I know this is a complicated issue, so feel free to contact Jennifer Hammonds at jennifer.hammonds@wku.edu or 5-5030 with any questions about your specific course.