

Addendum to the Academic and Inquiry Restart Plan in response to the community comments

We want to thank our WKU Community for submitting feedback. We considered your suggestions carefully.

Four themes emerged from our WKU students, faculty and staff, and members of the community feedback.

1. Wearing masks – WKU will follow the Healthy at Work guidelines from Governor Beshear’s Office which include universal masking. A comprehensive training program will be made available to provide the campus communities with essential knowledge to safely maneuver WKU campuses. A formal procedure document, WKU EHS-20-002 Personal Protective Measure for COVID-19, is under development. Every member of the WKU community will be expected to adhere to these procedures while participating in on-campus activities in the Fall.
2. Calendar – The proposed academic calendar for the Fall 2020 semester was developed to support a robust, on-time restart of the WKU experience including on-campus living and face-to-face courses. The calendar was modified to mitigate the anticipated flare-up of COVID-19 cases consistent with the yearly return of cold and flu season. Observing Fall Break, as well as Labor Day, during the Thanksgiving week and moving to remote delivery for the last two weeks of the semester serves three purposes:
 - allows the maximum number of in-person class meeting periods prior to cold and flu season
 - mitigates community spread as a function of personal travel
 - allows faculty ample time to plan for a successful student learning experience and final assessment.

Considering the unusual circumstances in which we are currently living, we believe the calendar as suggested in the document is the safest course of action to reopen WKU with face-to-face interaction for our entire community.

3. Course delivery – It has always been the intent of this plan to provide teaching faculty options and flexibility to deliver the highest quality courses possible for students using modalities appropriate to the various disciplines. We trust the expertise of our individual faculty members, who will be teaching in altered, challenging, and often less than ideal circumstances. We believe that the faculty are best situated to understand, develop, and choose the course delivery method that will most effectively and appropriately deliver a quality educational experience for their courses, be that F2F, hybrid, or online. WKU is strengthened as an institution as it supports faculty to explore, develop, and deliver courses using new pedagogical methods. We are committed to providing faculty with the professional development and technology necessary for creating revised purposeful and effective learning environments. We urge faculty to support their colleagues by sharing best practices and to strengthen their own teaching by engaging with the Center for

Innovative Teaching and Learning (CITL) as we continue to climb together. We thank students and faculty for their willingness to be open-minded and to embrace opportunities to be fully engaged participants in student-centered, applied educational experiences at WKU. CITL will release a schedule of training opportunities for faculty as soon as possible. Finally, to further accommodate students who are unable to return to F2F learning in the Fall, WKU will make every effort to support students that feel that they are in a risk group engage in remote teaching and learning. We are working with WKU IT to upgrade our learning spaces in a way that supports Zoom access to Face-to-Face experiences.

4. Logistics – This Big Red Restart Plan is a living document that will necessarily change as new knowledge, guidelines and learning through our best practices become available. Many of the questions concerning details about, transitions between classrooms, the usage of classrooms, locations of safe spaces/study lounges for commuting students, personal protective equipment, and cleaning are still developing. Please visit the Big Red Restart website for the most up to date guidelines and recommendations, wku.edu/restart. More specific details will be shared with the campus community as they become available during the coming weeks. For specific questions, please contact WKU's COVID Response Team at 270-745-2019 or wkuemgm@wku.edu.