

## Campus Update | Fall Semester Calendar | May 22, 2020

In accordance with recommendations from the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE), Helena College is adjusting the Fall 2020 Semester Schedule to start a week early and end before Thanksgiving. This change will help reduce the risks associated with COVID-19 and allow us to continue to provide quality education to our students, all while keeping the health and safety of our entire campus community our top priority.

Our new start date for the Fall Semester will be Monday, August 17, 2020. Our final date for classes will be Wednesday, November 25, 2020 and we will return to campus on January 11, 2021. We are in the process of adjusting our academic calendar to reflect these changes and will have that finalized in the coming weeks.

The changes in our start and end dates for the Fall Semester were decided by a campus committee with representation from employees across our various divisions, as well as in consultation with the Associated Students of Helena College. The decision to change our semester calendar was not made lightly and took into consideration recommendations from OCHE, as well as public health guidelines and protocols to mitigate the risk of infection.

We are also hard at work planning for a healthy return to campus in the Fall and you will be hearing more from us about the progress of our Healthy Fall Teams in the coming weeks. We will continue to communicate with you throughout the summer through your Helena College email. Please check your email often to stay informed and up to date on campus developments.

Moving up our semester start date by a week might create some personal challenges for you. You may have to end your summer job earlier. You might have child care issues. We understand these challenges and want you to know we are here for you. We encourage you to reach out to your advisor and to Financial Aid for any assistance you may need.

To summarize, the important dates for the 2020-21 Academic Calendar are as follows:

- **Monday, Aug. 17, 2020** - First Day of Classes for the Fall Semester
- **Wednesday, Nov. 25, 2020** - Last Day of Classes for the Fall Semester
- **Monday, Jan. 11, 2021** - First Day of Classes for the Spring Semester

Our whole Helena College community has shown such great fortitude and flexibility during these extraordinary times. As we move forward together, into the next stage of the new normal, we thank you in advance for your patience and flexibility.