

From: [Summers, Greg](#)
Subject: Academic Affairs Update, 12-11-20
Date: Friday, December 11, 2020 3:19:05 PM
Attachments: [The Real Covid-19 Enrollment Crisis Fewer Low-Income Students Went Straight to College.pdf](#)
[RELEASE - UW System to accelerate COVID-19 testing for spring 2021.pdf](#)

Colleagues,

Happily, we have made it to another Friday, and we've made it to final exam week! As difficult and uncertain as this semester has been, it's good to reach this point in the calendar and pause briefly to reflect on the accomplishment.

On that point, recent analyses are beginning to make clear just how disruptive the pandemic has been to student enrollment in higher education. See the attached [article](#) from this week's Chronicle of Higher Education as an example. We have not escaped this impact entirely at UW-Stevens Point. Nevertheless, we have managed to recruit, retain, and continue serving students relatively well through the crisis thus far. All your work to make this possible should be (yet again) commended.

I have a couple of additional notes:

- Speaking of finals week, given the large number of asynchronous online classes that may be scheduling exams, please be careful to provide enough flexibility in scheduling that assignments/due dates don't conflict with scheduled in-person exams.
- Today, UW System issued the attached press release regarding an expanded COVID testing regime during the spring semester. We don't have details yet concerning how this might be implemented at UW-Stevens Point, but please know we will be discussing this and sharing further information in the days ahead.
- Finally, regarding next spring, I would encourage instructors to reach out to students who have signed up for your classes to clarify questions about course modalities. If you do, the table below might be helpful to share, and to remind students that the best place to start is what's listed in the timetable.

Timetable Language	What this means?	Do students have to be on campus?
Online (AKA Asynchronous)	A fully online class with no specific class meeting times.	No
Virtual Classroom (AKA Synchronous)	A fully online class with specific class meeting times.	No, but unlike the fall semester, you will be expected to participate during the scheduled

		times of these online classes.
In-person	A traditional class that meets in person in a regular rotation.	Yes, unless you contact your instructor for an accommodation.

Stay safe, everyone, and have a wonderful weekend.

Greg

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