



# PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY

A Member of the Texas A&M University System

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** PVAMU Students, Faculty and Staff

**From:** James M. Palmer *JM Palmer*  
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Steve Ransom *Steven Ransom*  
Interim Vice President for Student Affairs

**Date:** June 30, 2021

**Re:** Fall Semester Opening

We know that you are excited, and perhaps nervous, about returning to campus this coming academic year. This announcement provides information about the fall 2021 semester.

### **Course Instruction**

The first day of classes is Monday, August 23, and PVAMU will return fully to face-to-face instruction. A small percentage of coursework will be offered in hybrid and online modalities as was done prior to the pandemic. Occupancy levels of classrooms and labs will return to 100 percent, though every effort will be made to place courses in larger settings where available, including in auditoriums not typically used for course delivery.

### **Vaccinations, Testing and Face Coverings**

Vaccinations are not required to return to campus, but vaccination is the most effective way to mitigate the impact of COVID-19. Vaccinations are, therefore, strongly encouraged. Contact Health Services at 936-261-1410 to schedule an appointment for vaccinations. Testing will be offered at the main campus through the Curative kiosk through the fall semester.

Face Coverings are highly recommended indoors and outdoors when physical distancing is not possible. At present, not everyone has been vaccinated; therefore, asymptomatic, unvaccinated individuals pose a risk, and face coverings help reduce that risk.

### **COVID-19 Training**

New freshmen and transfer students must complete an assigned training course. Returning students should refer to their prior training and updates made to the PVAMU COVID-19 Resource webpage.

### **Academic Support**

In-person advising and tutoring services will return this fall, but virtual support will also take place during pre-scheduled times. Faculty will hold office hours face-to-face as well as virtually in the fall semester. Full time faculty will be required to hold a minimum of six hours per week on at least two days during the week with options for students to interact virtually as well.

### **Classroom Safety**

Current cleaning protocols will remain in place for the fall. These include disinfecting facilities and scheduling time for deep-cleaning during the day between classes at select times.

### **Course Attendance and Grading**

Faculty will record attendance and report absences per the Attendance Reporting schedule as determined by the Office of the Registrar. Students who are sick or who are self-quarantining due to COVID-19 related illnesses or exposure, must not attend in-person class sessions. Students who are feeling sick should follow PVAMU's COVID guidelines posted at <https://www.pvamu.edu/coronavirus/> under "Student FAQs" to complete the steps to receive an official university excuse.

Due to the return to face-to-face teaching, the Pass/Not Pass (P/NP) grade options will not be used in the fall.

### **Mini-Mester Coursework**

Prairie View held its first mini-mester courses last January, and these will be offered again to support students to remain enrolled and progressing through the pandemic. Courses will be offered online and will be compressed and intense. Options will be available for viewing and registration in November.

### **Athletics, Band and other Student Groups**

Selected student populations will be returning to campus during the late summer prior to the start of the semester. Details will be shared by the administration and staff over these areas regarding when to return and with details about testing and safety protocols.

### **On-Campus Housing**

Campus housing is available for lease this fall. On campus visitation is allowed; however, the University will be monitoring any rise in COVID-19 cases closely and may make adjustments.

### **Domestic and International Travel**

Domestic travel is now allowed for essential University business purposes. International travel is allowed to countries with a CDC risk assessment level of 3 or lower following careful approval of its essential business need. Vaccinations are recommended prior to travel, and CDC COVID-19 protocols must be followed upon return to the U.S.

### **On-going Planning for the Fall**

Working together, we can ensure a successful start and finish to the fall semester. Continue to stay safe this summer, and be on the lookout for additional information regarding the fall to include a protocol grid for ease of reference.

xc: Ruth Simmons, President