



ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY MID-SOUTH

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January 4, 2022

Greyhound Nation:

Arkansas is currently experiencing record numbers of positive cases of COVID-19 due to the Omicron variant, and we anticipate that this trend will continue over the next two weeks. After careful consideration and out of an abundance of caution for our campus community, **ASU Mid-South has decided to postpone the start to the Spring 2022 semester to January 18, 2022, immediately following the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.**

We hope that by delaying the beginning of the semester, we will help mitigate the risk to our campus community by providing a greater buffer between holiday activities and the start of in-person instruction. A delayed start will also give those students who may have had to isolate or quarantine over the Winter Break extended time to end their isolation or quarantine period prior to the first day of classes.

The delayed start to the Spring 2022 semester will affect other dates during the semester as well, including, but not limited to, the final day of classes, final exam week, and graduation. These changes will be made to the Academic Calendar and published on the college website as soon as possible. Please note that these changes will not affect the dates of spring break.

Because the health and safety of our campus community is of utmost importance, we will continue to monitor the number of positive COVID-19 case counts to determine whether additional measures, such as an initial remote start, are necessary. We will make a determination regarding any additional measures and, if we determine they are necessary, will communicate them to our campus community no later than January 13th.

Given that the Omicron variant has proven to be much more contagious, I encourage everyone who can be vaccinated to get vaccinated and/or boosted as soon as possible, if you haven't already. Also, it is more important than ever that we all adhere to established COVID protocols:

- **Masks (worn over the nose and mouth) are mandatory inside all campus buildings until further notice.**
- **Also, we ask that you please continue to practice good respiratory and hand hygiene and maintain appropriate (6 feet minimum) physical distance from others.**
- **If you're in a technical program that requires close contact with others, wear your face shield!**
- Finally, and perhaps most importantly, please remember to screen yourself for symptoms daily before coming to campus. The Daily Self-Screening Questionnaire can be found online (<https://www.asumidsouth.edu/daily-health-screening-questionnaire/>) or in the app.

Doing these small things each day can help diminish the risk to yourselves and others. So, let's all do our part to help keep each other safe.

Sincerely,

Debra West, Ph.D.
Chancellor