

Dear King's Students,

As the president of King's College, I want to share exciting news regarding the beginning of the Fall 2020 Academic semester. Our academic semester will begin on August 24th, one week earlier than previously announced. And classes will be conducted in-person. And out of our concern for your health and safety, we will have in place the practices that will mitigate health risks associated with COVID 19.

Student-centered Learning at King's

I know that your last semester at King's was deeply impacted by the pandemic. My leadership at King's has been impacted as well. I believe more than ever before in the value of the student-centered educational experience that we provide at King's. From the student surveys that you completed it is clear to me that you believe in it too. Forgive me for taking a moment to remind you about it and why I am excited to welcome you back to campus.

At King's College, in-person learning is at the heart of our mission. We provide personal attention to student formation in a nurturing community. We form graduates who will champion the inherent dignity of every person and will mobilize their talents and professional skills to serve the common good. And we transform hearts and minds with zeal in communities of hope. Our strong record of student outcomes and the incredible success of our alumni are achieved through personal interactions between students, faculty, and staff.

I imagine that you have chosen to return to King's because you believe, like I do, that King's is a place where you have found the support, encouragement, and challenge to develop your skills and talents. I imagine that you have developed important bonds of friendship with your fellow students, faculty, coaches, and other mentors. During my years at King's as a faculty member, dean, and now as president, I have witnessed the growth in mind and heart of so many students, who are now committed and successful alumni. I am excited that you will return to campus to continue your journey as a Monarch on the road to success.

Changes to the Fall 2020 Academic Calendar

All in-person courses scheduled for the Fall 2020 semester will be held according to the calendar below. Let me briefly highlight the new elements.

- Classes begin on Monday, August 24th one-week earlier than previously announced.
- Resident students will be notified regarding the dates for move-in, which will begin during the week of August 17th.
- Fall Break has been eliminated and we will have classes on Labor Day.
- In-person classes end on Wednesday, November 25th, the day prior to Thanksgiving.
- Final exams are take-home or online. The exams will be taken or due between Monday, November 30 and Saturday, December 5.

Week	Class days	Option of Starting August 24
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0	0	Monday - August 17	Resident students begin move-in
1	5	Monday - August 24	Classes begin
2	5	Monday - August 31	
3	5	Monday - Sept 7	Labor Day - will hold classes
4	5	Monday - Sept 14	
5	5	Monday - Sept 21	
6	5	Monday - Sept 28	
7	5	Monday - Oct 5	
8	5	Monday - Oct 12	
9	5	Monday - Oct 19	
10	5	Monday - Oct 26	
11	5	Monday - Nov 2	
12	5	Monday - Nov 9	
13	5	Monday - Nov 16	
14	3	Monday - Nov 23	
		Wednesday - Nov 25	Classes end
	68	Total class meeting days	
15		Mon. Nov 30 - Sat. Dec. 5 take home or online	Final Exams

Why have we changed the Academic Calendar?

It is my belief that this calendar mitigates health risks to students, faculty, and staff. Travel will be minimized, thus reducing the risk of virus transmission from outside of the area. We would complete the semester prior to a potential increase in coronavirus cases in the late fall and early winter. At the same time, the amount of instructional time will not be reduced. You will have a full academic semester!

The Impact of Health and Safety Protocols on your Classroom and Residential Experience

We, at King's are deeply committed to your health and wellbeing as you return to our community. We will engage, and ask you to engage with us, the practices that will help keep us all as healthy and safe as possible.

The College will follow the rules, regulations, and guidance from local, state, and federal governments and agencies. Our facilities and housekeeping teams will work diligently to clean and disinfect your classrooms, residences, and other campus facilities.

Your classroom experience will be impacted by health and safety protocols. We will follow social distancing guidelines. We will supplement in-class instruction with technology as needed. We will provide guidelines for interactions with your professors and for seeking the support you need from various offices on campus to help you to be successful.

Contingency Plans

As you know well from the past four months, it is essential to have a plan in place should another disruption take place. If circumstances change at any point in the semester, limiting our ability to continue to learn in-person, we will be prepared to continue the academic work of the semester in an online environment. Let us hope and pray for a peaceful, and uninterrupted semester!

Assurance of Prayers

Each day, members of the Holy Cross Congregation and I pray for you and your families, for your health and safety, and for wisdom as we continue to plan for your return to the King's College community. Please pray for King's and for God's blessing on your next academic year.

Sincerely,

Fr. Jack Ryan, CSC, Ph.D.

President

For additional information, please contact Rev. Thomas Looney, C.S.C., Ph.D., AVP for Academic Success, (570) 208-5836, thomaslooney@kings.edu.