Message from Provost Bobby Fleischman:

Since my arrival in July, I have witnessed a tremendous amount of incredible work performed at Ferris State University. In my new role, I have really enjoyed taking part in the special camaraderie and teamwork on campus. I remain impressed by the work done by the Re-Entry Committee and the many ideas brought forth by the work groups. Many employees continue to rise to the challenge in helping the University to re-engage in the safest way possible. The way that the University community has come together to start the semester on schedule while remaining as safe as possible for our students resonates as nothing less than astonishing, and we owe a debt of gratitude for the efforts invested across the University community.

As an institution, Ferris State University continues to deliver the highest level of instruction, while providing accessible technical and hardware support to our students, faculty and staff.

To that end, here are one-time accommodations as they relate to the Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 semesters:

Withdrawal Date

- The Course Withdrawal date for the Fall 2020 Semester has been extended through Friday, December 11, 2020 and the course withdrawal date for the Spring 2021 semester has been extended through Friday, April 23, 2021. Students are responsible for being aware of the consequences of the effects of a “W” on Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) by consulting with their academic advisor and a financial aid representative. Financial Aid advisors can be contacted by email at finaid@ferris.edu or by phone at 231-598-8210.
Incompletes “I”

- Given the continuing abnormal circumstances of this semester and the burdens on faculty and students to transition to remote delivery formats, faculty are encouraged to consider a flexible use of the “I” grade, if warranted.

- The normal threshold for an “I” grade is completion of 75% of the course work. Faculty will have the flexibility to lower that threshold to 50%, if helpful to promote student success.

- Students who receive a grade of “I” in a Fall 2020 semester course have until the end of the Spring 2021 semester to complete the work.

- If further State, Federal, or University mandates are imposed in the next months, considerations for extending the date could be possible.

Grading

- Faculty will be expected to submit letter grades as in the past for the Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 semesters.

- Through the end of the following semester (Spring 2021 for Fall 2020 courses, and Fall 2021 for Spring 2021 courses), students will have the option to submit a request to have a letter grade for a Fall 2020 or a Spring 2021 semester course changed to a Credit/No Credit (CR/NC) grade.

- The request will be submitted to the course instructor, and the normal Grade Change process will apply, should the request be approved.

- Instructor approval of the grade change may be dependent upon accreditation, prerequisite, and/or program standards. A CR/NC grade will not affect GPA.

- Please be aware that a CR/NC grade may not be in a student’s best interest, as graduate school admissions and academic content major admissions often require specific and comprehensive grades and GPAs.

- Students submitting grade change requests will be responsible for consulting their academic advisor to determine if the change is allowed by external accreditation and academic program completion plans. Students receiving financial aid are also responsible for consulting with a financial aid advisor before submitting the request.
Semester Schedule

- The official start and end dates of the Fall 2020 semester remain August 31 – December 18.

- To finish out the remaining three weeks of the fall semester, instruction will move (wherever possible) to remote delivery beginning Monday, November 30, after the Thanksgiving recess. There will be some programs or classes, most notably those with laboratories that require significant amounts of specialized equipment that will continue on-campus during this period. Information about specific programs or classes can be found in Banner. Questions should be directed to the course instructor.

- During this time after Thanksgiving, the University will remain open and operations will continue, with housing and dining available throughout the end of the semester.

- As part of the University’s ongoing efforts to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, the decision has been made to modify the Spring 2021 academic calendar and eliminate Spring Recess scheduled for March 6-14, 2021. Instruction will continue during this week. The last day of classes will be Friday, April 23, with exam week now scheduled for April 26-30, 2021.

No Fall 2020 or Spring 2021 Academic Dismissals for Undergraduate Programs

- It is imperative, however, that the University community continues to recognize its commitment to Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP), advising, and student success as it would normally with students who may be in academic peril.

- Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) standards ensure students are successfully completing coursework and able to continue to receive financial aid. All students receiving financial aid are required to meet SAP standards. Federal regulations require the University to establish, publish, and apply standards to monitor progress toward completing a degree. In an instance where a student fails to meet the SAP standards, financial aid warning or suspension occurs. More information about SAP as well as the process to make an appeal is available at:  [https://www.ferris.edu/admissions/financialaid/process/Sap.htm](https://www.ferris.edu/admissions/financialaid/process/Sap.htm)