



A Message from University of Kentucky  
**PRESIDENT ELI CAPILOUTO**

Dear UK Community,

One of our key principles during the COVID-19 pandemic has been to always ensure the health, safety and well-being of our campus community. It is part of how we answer the question every day: Did we care?

One of the earliest — and most important — ways that commitment manifested itself was in the fall academic schedule for this semester. We brought students back earlier than usual and eliminated days away from campus like Labor Day and the Fall Break.

The idea: bring students back and keep them here, as much as possible, until the end of the semester in the interest of health and safety.

That principle has guided our plans for the spring semester, too. A complete listing of our revised calendar can be found here: <https://www.uky.edu/registrar/spring-2021-semester>. The following are highlights:

- We will begin classes for the spring semester on Monday, Jan. 25 — a couple of weeks later than most years.
- Students will be away from campus for about seven weeks of winter break, during which time we plan to offer a more robust intercession of classes than at any time in our history. We will have more details on that plan in the coming weeks.
- The final day of classes will be Wednesday, May 5.
- Final examinations will be held Monday, May 10 through Thursday, May 13.
- Additionally, the university will remove Spring Break from the calendar, creating a safer, more condensed experience for our campus community, during which travel is less likely.
- However, our students will receive a holiday on Friday, March 26.

As always, critically important efforts like these have many sources. Faculty leaders engaged in this process, and the University Senate Council ultimately reviewed and approved the plan.

A number of our COVID-19 workstreams provided key input and the plan was reviewed by our Emergency Operations Center.

We appreciate the patience of our community as we plan, once again, for reinvented operations

this spring. This is not how we envisioned this year, but together, we can — and we will — get through this together. We will be positioned to thrive in the future and assured that we did everything we could to protect the health, safety and well-being of the UK family.

Thank you for all you do to make that commitment possible.

Eli Capilouto