



Academic Affairs
Provost and Vice Chancellor

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TO: Deans
Division Heads
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FROM: Johannes Britz 
Provost and Vice Chancellor

DATE: August 24, 2020

RE: Important Class Information

Welcome to Fall 2020! As we begin the new semester, I would like to remind you about several important items:

1. Course Syllabus Policy

Faculty Document No. 1895 states, “At the first class session, each student in each course will be supplied a syllabus that contains essential information about the course and department policies that affect the conduct of the course.” At the request of the Faculty Senate, the Academic Policy Committee prepared a summary of recommended items for each course syllabus. This summary is available in printed form from your department chair and at: <https://uwm.edu/secu/syllabus-links/>. Instructors are encouraged to post the syllabi for their upcoming courses online. Please check with your Department Chair. We have also created specialized language regarding COVID-19 that must be placed in the syllabus of all courses that will have a face-to-face, on campus component: <https://uwm.edu/cetl/covid-19-syllabus-statements/>.

To meet federal Department of Education requirements on credit hours, the revised syllabus policy includes the following: “A.1.i. Specific information on the investment of time by the average student necessary to achieve the learning goals of the course in accordance with the campus credit hour policy, Faculty Document # 2838.” The credit hour policy states, “Study leading to one semester credit represents an investment of time by the average student of not fewer than 48 hours for class contact in lectures, for laboratories, examinations, tutorials and recitations, and for preparation and study; or a demonstration by the student of learning equivalent to that established as the expected product of such a period of study.” Examples can be found at <https://uwm.edu/secu/wp-content/uploads/sites/122/2014/07/Workload-Statements.pdf>.

I wish to draw particular attention to the issue of academic misconduct and ask that you include a statement in your syllabus clarifying both UWM’s and your expectations of appropriate student academic conduct. Student academic misconduct procedures are specified in Chapter UWS 14 and Faculty Document No. 1686 and can be found at <https://uwm.edu/deanofstudents/conduct/academic-misconduct/>. You can contact the Dean of Students Office (dos@uwm.edu or 414-229-4632) if you need assistance with crafting an academic conduct statement for your syllabus, if you have any concerns or questions relating to academic integrity, or if you would like to consult regarding a suspected academic misconduct incident. The Dean of Students Office is also happy to provide presentations on UWM academic misconduct processes and procedures. Please contact them for more information.

2. Course Reserves

Please consider putting a copy of your textbook on Course Reserve. Providing multiple ways to access class materials leads to improved student success.

- Personal or Library-owned textbooks, videos, or other supplementary materials can be placed on Reserve for students to use. Photocopied articles or materials from other Libraries cannot.
- Online course? Please consider placing a physical copy of your textbook on Reserve for on-campus students.
- To place new book or video requests for items not held by the Library - use the Libraries' purchase recommendations form at <https://uwm.edu/libraries/crm/purchase-recommendation/>
- You may submit your Reserve requests online at <https://uwm.edu/libraries/media/reserve-form/> or in person at the Media and Reserve desk. (UWM Libraries, lower level, west wing.)
- Course Reserve requests may be made any time throughout the semester.

Questions?

- Contact the Media and Reserve Library at 229-4673 or libmedia@uwm.edu.
- See the Media and Reserve Library website at: <https://uwm.edu/libraries/media/reserve-services/>.

3. Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

In the pursuit of equal access and in compliance with state and federal laws, the University is required to provide accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is expected that a statement be placed on your syllabus informing students to contact you to arrange needed accommodations. A sample syllabus statement can be found here: <https://uwm.edu/arc/wp-content/uploads/sites/97/2018/10/Recommended-Syllabus-Statement.pdf>. Students must share their Accommodation Plan with you and indicate the accommodations they are requesting in your course. You will also receive a Faculty Notification Letter from the Accessibility Resource Center (ARC). If a student requests an accommodation but does not have an Accommodation Plan, please direct him/her to the ARC. Additionally, please order and/or provide accessible course materials. See [Essential Accessibility Considerations \(& Resources\) for Instructional Materials](#). When this is not possible, provide early information on course reading materials and syllabus information with a schedule of readings, so materials can be converted to alternative formats for students with print disabilities. ARC will work with you to ensure that media for your course will be captioned for students with a captioning accommodation. Instructors will receive a notice separate from the Faculty Notification Letter with a unique link where they can submit their captioned media requests. Instructors who do not receive a letter can still submit a request by including the course name, course number, and student name in an email to caption@uwm.edu. For more information, please view the media captioning guidelines at <https://uwm.edu/arc/media-captioning/>. If you are unable to send ARC your recorded lectures or other media, you may use the UW-System approved outside vendors. Please be aware that the department is responsible for the costs associated with use of outside vendors. If you need assistance or have questions, please contact ARC at x5822.

4. Religious Observances

From time to time, students who are observing religious holidays or other days of special religious significance will find it necessary to be absent on a class day. While it is undoubtedly impossible to avoid the scheduling of tests and other major activities without conflicting with some religious observance, Wisconsin law (Chapter 36.43) and UWM Faculty Policy (Document 1918) require that we provide a reasonable accommodation of a student's sincerely held religious beliefs with regard to all examinations and other academic requirements. Please make every effort to accommodate students who face conflicts between their academic responsibilities and religious commitments. A copy of the policy is located on the web at <https://apps.uwm.edu/secu-policies/storage/other/SAAP%201-2.%20Accommodation%20of%20Religious%20Beliefs.pdf>. In addition, the current religious calendar can be found at <https://uwm.edu/academicaffairs/wp-content/uploads/sites/32/2020/06/calendar2021.pdf>.

5. Policy on Teaching Evaluation Procedures

Faculty Document No. 2019 outlines the policies regarding teaching evaluations. The policy states that all departments/instructional units will conduct end-of-the-semester student evaluations in every section of every course, including UWinteriM and summer session courses. Since the department/instructional unit determines the format of its course evaluations, please consult your department chairperson if you have any questions. The policy can be found at https://apps.uwm.edu/secu-policies/storage/other/SAAP1-16.Teaching_Evaluation_Policies.pdf.

6. FERPA Reminder

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974 requires that you be knowledgeable of students' rights concerning their educational records, and of certain categories of public information that the University has designated "directory information." For more information on understanding what UWM faculty and staff are required to do to protect the privacy of students, go to <https://uwm.edu/registrar/ferpa/>.

If you have not already done so, you are also strongly encouraged to complete the on-line FERPA training and quiz found at <https://uwm.edu/ferpa/>. See also sections 6 and 7 below for additional information about the confidentiality of student grade information.

7. Grading and Grade Records

Faculty Document No. 1927 outlines the policies on grading and grade records. This document is available from your department chair and at <https://apps.uwm.edu/secu-policies/storage/other/SAAP%201-11.%20Grading%20and%20Grade%20Records%20for%20All%20Schools%20and%20Colleges.pdf>.

The campus policy on assigning F-Grades to students is available at <https://apps.uwm.edu/secu-policies/storage/faculty/2435.pdf>. Please consult these documents for information on responsibilities for evaluation, grade and record changes, record keeping, and special consideration. Information on grading functionality within PAWS can be found at <https://uwm.edu/registrar/faculty-staff/instructor-grading/>. Under no circumstances may individual student grades be shared with other students, nor should grades be emailed to students.

8. Posting of Student Grades

Posting a list of students' names and grades represents a violation of the provision regarding release of a student's education record without written authorization and is not allowed. Be aware that social security numbers, UWM student ID numbers, or any parts of them, may not be used to identify grades whether they be final course grades, exam, or assignment grades. This does not preclude your posting grades as long as the procedure used ensures student anonymity. Posting grades with a unique identifier known only to the student and instructor is acceptable. In such cases, do not order the list alphabetically.

9. Drop /Withdrawal/Repeat Policies

UWM Academic and Administrative Policy SAAP 1-8 details the Drop/Withdrawal/Repeat policies (<https://apps.uwm.edu/secu-policies/storage/other/SAAP%201-8.%20Drop,%20Withdrawal,%20and%20Repeat%20Policy%20for%20Courses.pdf>). A student may drop a full-term course(s) through the end of the 10th week of classes. (Deadlines for shorter session courses are prorated.) One factor in students' decisions to drop courses might be their perception of course performance. I encourage you to provide some form of feedback about their academic performance to each of your students as soon as possible, but certainly prior to the drop deadline, so as to help students realistically assess their prospects for success in your course.

10. Progress Reports

While feedback by the drop deadline may help students assess whether they should remain in a class, it may be too late by then for students to turn around unsatisfactory performance. Understanding course expectations and knowing their progress is especially important for freshmen and others who may be less well prepared academically. A Progress Reports campaign will be administered to provide important feedback to students at a critical point in the semester. Know that you can utilize these alerts at any point in the semester to assist students regardless of the timing of the campaign. More specific information on this will be provided early in the semester.

11. Helping Students Cope with Stress

Given the many demands college students face today, stress is unavoidable. The simplest words or actions from an influential adult can have a significant impact on how students succeed. Close friends, relatives, clergy, coaches – anyone who is seen as caring and trustworthy – may be a potential resource in times of trouble. In your position as faculty or staff member, students may also view you as someone who listens and offers guidance. I hope that we all would offer caring support and guidance to our students who may be struggling with excessive stress as well as those students who are experiencing significant emotional or health problems. By expressing interest and concern, you have the opportunity to help a student in need find appropriate assistance.

For more information about how you can help UWM students manage stress, please see the UWM Mental Health website at <https://uwm.edu/mentalhealth>. Students can be referred to Norris' University Counseling Services located in the Northwest Quadrant. University Counseling and Health Promotion and Wellness' Survivor Support and Victim Advocacy Coordinator also provides consultation to faculty and staff about individual student issues. Call (414) 229-4133 for more information and for student appointments. Class and department presentations on stress and coping are also available. Contact Lori Bokowy at labokowy@uwm.edu for additional presentation information and scheduling or complete a request form at <https://uwm.edu/mentalhealth/outreach-request/>.

You can also report information and concerns to the Dean of Students Office, who will assist you and the student in navigating stress and challenges. More information on the Dean of Students Office is available at <https://uwm.edu/deanofstudents/>.

12. Title IX/Sexual Violence

Title IX is a federal law that prohibits sex discrimination in education programs or activities. Sex discrimination includes sexual violence, which may include sexual harassment, sexual assault, relationship violence, and/or stalking in all education-related areas such as admissions, educational programs or activities, and athletics.

UWM strongly encourages its students to report any instance of sex discrimination, and non-confidential employees who witness or receive any report of sex discrimination must report it to UWM's Title IX Coordinator (titleix@uwm.edu, 414-229-7012). More information is available at <https://uwm.edu/titleix/>.

Please see UWM's Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment Policy, SAAP 5-2, for more information on sex discrimination (<https://apps.uwm.edu/secu-policies/storage/other/SAAP%205-2.%20Sexual%20Violence%20and%20Sexual%20Harassment%20Policy.pdf>), and see UWM's Discriminatory Conduct and Consensual Relationships Policy, SAAP 5-1, for more information on other prohibited forms of discrimination (<https://apps.uwm.edu/secu-policies/storage/other/SAAP%205-1.%20Discriminatory%20Conduct%20Policy.pdf>).

13. The Campus Assessment, Response, and Education (CARE) Team and Student Support Team (SST)

The Dean of Students Office operates two, multi-disciplinary teams guided to assist the campus community with regards to concerns. The CARE Team addresses incidents involving anyone (student, employee, non-affiliated persons) who may pose a risk of potentially harmful or threatening behavior to the campus community. The SST helps identify students who appear to be in distress and provides supportive intervention and guidance to the student in need. These teams are not emergency response teams; if there is an emergency, or you need immediate assistance, call UWMPD at 414-229-9911 or 9-911 from a campus phone.

The CARE Team and SST do not replace other classroom management responsibilities, supervisory workplace duties, or disciplinary processes. The teams, instead, are designed to supplement these efforts. If you are concerned about an individual's distressing or disruptive behavior, a student that is facing significant challenges (mental health concerns, food insecurity, homelessness, death in the family, etc.), threats to the campus community, and/or any other concerns for which you feel you need assistance, fill out an incident report at <https://uwm.edu/deanofstudents/report-it/> or call the Dean of Students Office at 414-229-4632.

When you submit a report, a staff member with the Dean of Students Office will consult with you about the situation. For more information about these teams or to request a presentation on these resources, contact the Dean of Students Office at dos@uwm.edu or 414-229-4632.

14. The S.A.F.E. Campaign

Safety Awareness for Everyone describes initiatives to increase campus-wide awareness of how to stay safe. One of UWM's S.A.F.E. campus goals is to create a culture of awareness among students, faculty, staff, and parents. The Campus Health & Safety Web site at <https://uwm.edu/health-safety/> (and link at the bottom of the UWM home page) centralizes emergency and routine safety information and

communications. All faculty, students, and staff are encouraged to enroll in the S.A.F.E. Alert system to receive emergency-information text message alerts. All students, faculty, and staff are automatically signed up for email alerts through their uwm.edu email. Students can automatically sign up for text alerts by entering their cell phone number in their PAWS account. Faculty and staff go can to the link above to sign up for text alerts.

15. Students Called to Military Service

I would also remind you that UWM and the UW System have in recent years put in place a number of policies and procedures designed to accommodate students who must temporarily interrupt their studies when called to active duty military service. Go to <https://uwm.edu/onestop/students-called-to-active-duty/> for more detailed information. Students in this situation do have some options not generally available under our usual academic and administrative policies, so if you have not done so recently, I encourage you to review this document.

16. Schedule of Final Exams

UWM SAAP 1-9 is the policy that governs the scheduling of and/or exemption from final examinations. With rare exceptions, the final examination shall be given during the regular examination period. The time of a final examination for an individual or a class may be changed only with the prior approval of the dean. An approved change can only be a postponement to a later date and must be clearly communicated to students early in the term.

Final exams may not exceed two hours in length, even for courses that have met only once per week during the semester for longer than two hours. The academic department, in consultation with the appropriate dean or director, is authorized to exempt particular courses from the final examination when it is determined that no essential education purpose is served by conducting a final examination. Here is the link to the policy: <https://apps.uwm.edu/secu-policies/storage/other/SAAP%201-9.%20Final%20Examinations.pdf>. Questions regarding the policy should be directed to the Secretary of the University.

17. Smoke-Free Campus

UWM is committed to maintaining a safe campus environment and to ensuring that it acts to the extent possible to shield its students and employees from harm. To mitigate the established health risks associated with the use of tobacco products and exposure to secondhand smoke, UWM prohibits smoking and the use of tobacco on all campus property. More information is available at <https://uwm.edu/smokefree>.

Your cooperation in all these matters is greatly appreciated. Have a wonderful semester!

c: Mark Mone, Chancellor
Kelly Haag, Chief Student Affairs Officer
Phyllis King, Vice Provost
Dev Venugopalan, Vice Provost
Robert Beck, Chief Information Officer
Trudy Turner, Secretary of the University
Kathleen Dolan, Chair, University Committee
Kyla Esguerra, Chair, Academic Staff Committee
Stanley Yasaitis, Chair, Classified Staff Advisory Council
Kristin Hildebrandt, Registrar
Michael Doylen, Associate Vice Provost and Director, UWM Libraries
Tim Opgenorth, Director, Financial Aid
Patrick Fay, Interim Director, Undergraduate Admissions
Colin Daly, Director, New Student Programs
Kay Eilers, Director, Student Success and Co-Lead, Enrollment Management
Dave Clark, Special Assistant to the Provost and Co-Lead, Enrollment Management
Jonathan Broskowski, Interim Director, Accessibility Resource Center
Sandy Humes, Assistant Director, Records and Grades
Emily Kuhnen, Academic Catalog Coordinator
Sarah Rothmann-Mandl, Classroom Assignments
Christine Wolf, Academic Programs Coordinator, Center for International Education