

Academic Affairs

Alabama State University and the Office of Academic Affairs are preparing for a Fall semester that provides a positive learning environment, while protecting the health and safety of our students, faculty and staff. We are committed to providing students with high quality instruction using multiple modes of delivery, when possible. The Office of Academic Affairs has collaborated with other divisions across the campus to adapt to a “mixed methods” instructional model that maximizes social distancing. Modifications to the academic calendar prioritize consideration of the health and safety of students, faculty and staff.

GOALS OF FALL 2020

ACADEMIC PROGRAM DELIVERY



Provide instruction while minimizing the risk or the spread of COVID-19



Deliver flexible instruction through face-to-face, hybrid and online methods



Ensure that ASU students have the appropriate academic progress towards graduation



Ensure enhanced strategies are in place to support academic and student success



ACADEMIC CALENDAR MODIFICATION FOR 2020

ASU has developed a modified schedule to end in-person instruction by Thanksgiving Break. This change will minimize the potential spread of COVID-19. These changes to the academic calendar will result in the following:

- All finals for graduating seniors will occur **November 18-20, 2020**.
- All finals for continuing students (non-candidates for graduation) will be taken online during the week of **November 30 - December 4**.
- ASU Fall 2020 Commencement Exercises are under review.

Important Note: Should there be challenges due to the uncertainty of the coronavirus pandemic during the Fall 2020 semester, all courses will continue through an online delivery format based on the contingency plan developed by each faculty member and approved by the department. This will ensure that all students enrolled in the Fall semester will be afforded the opportunity to continue progress toward degree completion without interruption.

ACADEMIC DELIVERY MODEL

- Increased Online Learning Opportunities
- Increased Hybrid/Blended Learning Opportunities
- Increased Eight-week Term Courses in both Online and Hybrid Models
- Decreased Traditional Face-to-Face Courses to Promote Social Distancing

Hornet F2F Term 1
8 WEEKS
AUGUST 17-OCTOBER 9
FACE TO FACE

Hornet e-Learning Term 1
8 WEEKS
AUGUST 17-OCTOBER 9
ONLINE (ASYNCHRONOUS)

Hornet Hybrid Term 1
8 WEEKS
AUGUST 17-OCTOBER 9
HYBRID

Hornet F2F Term 2
8 WEEKS
OCTOBER 12-DECEMBER 4
FACE TO FACE

Hornet e-Learning Term 2
8 WEEKS
OCTOBER 12-DECEMBER 4
ONLINE (ASYNCHRONOUS)

Hornet Hybrid Term 2
8 WEEKS
OCTOBER 12-DECEMBER 4
HYBRID

Hornet Traditional (F2F, e-Learning and Hybrid)
(16-WEEKS)
AUGUST 17-DECEMBER 4
SELECT COURSES, CLINICAL ROTATIONS, INTERNSHIPS, PRACTICUMS AND LABS

»»» Course Mode Considerations

Alabama State University has conducted a comprehensive analysis of the makeup of its face-to-face, online and hybrid courses across all colleges.

- 8-week courses provide the same course material and course outcomes as 16-week courses.
- 8-week courses are more intensive and require the same amount of work and confer the same amount of credit. Note: This alternative format requires more dedicated focus for a shorter amount of time to achieve the course outcomes.
- Depending on a student's program of study, we expect that most undergraduate students who would prefer to take most or all of their courses remotely would be able to do so.

»»» Virtual Training and Development

- The Academy of Excellence for Research & eLearning (AEReL) will continue to provide training and any materials to assist faculty with instructional design needs (syllabi, course objectives, rubrics, etc.) when needed.
- Faculty professional development will be delivered through a variety of virtual modes, including videos, online resources focused on online teaching and research, consultations, and webinars focused on specific technologies.
- Faculty, staff and student meetings will be held virtually, whenever possible.

»»» Levi Watkins Learning Center

- The Levi Watkins Learning Center (LWLC) will provide learning opportunities, assistance with research, resources and services to support scholarly communication, learning assistance and training.
- The LWLC will provide Information/Reference/Research Consultation via Live Chat, SMS, Email and telephone to help faculty and students learning and working remotely.
- Library Online Catalog databases are available 24/7 for remote access.
- The National Center for the Study of Civil Rights and African-American Culture will be available to provide learning opportunities supporting research in the areas of cultural heritage, human rights and social justice.
- Website access: <http://www.lib.alasu.edu/>

»»» Online Readiness for Students

Alabama State University is committed to providing students with tools to develop necessary online learning skills to promote learning and achievement in an online environment. This will be accomplished by providing students with access to the ASU Online Readiness Modules to assist with mastering taking an online course.