

MESSAGE FROM THE PROVOST



Dear Faculty Colleagues,

Happy Friday! You made it through another week providing excellent instruction, support, and guidance to your students. Thank you! And thank you for all the ways you are supporting one another. You are the reason that Kent State is the best place to learn and work.

Concerns regarding the disruptions to student learning caused by COVID-19 in the Spring of 2020 led to an increase in the grading options available to students. Specifically, we expanded opportunity for the Pass/Fail option, offered an extension of the deadline for course Withdrawal, and added flexibility around Incomplete grades. These were the right actions to take for our students and I appreciate your endorsement for them. Although technically, a student can request both an Incomplete as well as a Pass/Fail, given these additional options and extended deadlines, the Ad-Hoc Academic Continuity Committee has recommended, and I have agreed, that for Spring 2020, students should **only opt for a single option** (Withdrawal, Pass/Fail, **or** Incomplete) for a given course. More details can be found [here](#).

As we wrap up the Spring 2020 semester, the Ad Hoc Academic Continuity Committee has started working on guidance regarding academic policies and procedures for **Summer 2020**. Today I want to share with you the *Recommendations Concerning 2020 Intersession and Summer Course Offerings* from the [Ad Hoc Academic Continuity Committee](#). I have approved this recommendation and have asked Deans, Department Chairs, and School Directors to use this as a guide for remote course delivery during the Summer. I will highlight three key points from the recommendations below. The full document of the guidelines can be found [here](#).

- The minimum expectations developed by the Ad Hoc Academic Continuity Committee for remote course delivery for Spring 2020 remain in place for **Intersession 2020** (<https://www.kent.edu/provost/academic-affairs-response-covid-19>).

- **Beginning Summer I 2020**, exclusive use of email and phone will not be sufficient to demonstrate significant instructor presence and engagement in remote courses. Instructors should enhance, to the extent possible, remote course offerings to provide our students with a successful and meaningful experience. Assistance with enhancing a course for remote delivery is available for instructors by contacting the Office of Continuing and Distance Education, or the Center for Teaching and Learning, or visiting <https://www.kent.edu/keeponteaching>.
- If you are teaching remote this Summer and use a significant amount of asynchronous instruction and/or content, please let your students know as soon as possible—remember they initially signed up for a synchronous course and expect to have opportunity to engage with you in real time. If you have specialized technology needs in your course (e.g., software, computer with camera) please let students know as soon as possible.

Thank you again for all you are doing to deliver outstanding instruction to meet your learning outcomes while providing maximum flexibility and an extra dose of kindness! Enjoy the weekend and take an extra minute to breathe. You've got this!

My best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melody". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Melody Tankersley
Interim Senior Vice President and Provost
Kent State University