

From: [EMCC President](#)
To: [all_emcc](#); [all_students](#)
Subject: [All_emcc] Fall Semester Plans
Date: Friday, May 15, 2020 5:11:30 PM

Dear Faculty, Staff, and Students:

As Mississippi continues to loosen restrictions brought on by the recent coronavirus pandemic, I am excited to announce that plans are currently underway for East Mississippi Community College to resume face-to-face instruction for the fall semester.

In preparation for this transition, we have convened a Coronavirus Task Force to recommend modified policies and procedures for a safe return to in-person instruction for the fall semester. This team will recommend expanded health and safety protocols, flexible course formats, and robust contingency plans should public health concerns necessitate further modifications. Additionally, we are working closely with Dr. David Shaw from Mississippi State in his role as the chairman of the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning Safe Start Task Force. In the coming weeks, we will share specific details regarding what a fall on-campus semester will look, particularly with regards to housing policies and student life programming.

We expect that some of our students will choose not to return to campus for a variety of personal reasons, including but not limited to their own health or concern for the health of a family member. We will continue to offer robust online options to meet the needs of anyone who prefers virtual learning. This summer, we are offering a wide range of online courses through the full summer term and two summer intensive terms. Interested students should reach out to their advisor to register TODAY at advising@eastms.edu. For a list of available summer classes, please click [here](#).

We will continue to review the latest public health guidelines and best practices to determine how we will handle large gatherings, annual public events, and athletic events. We will share more information as decisions are made.

We know that the economic impact of the coronavirus has hit each one of us differently. To encourage current students who might be experiencing financial repercussions from the pandemic to complete their educational plans, EMCC will waive the business office hold for all students who owe a balance of \$500 or less. While this waiver will not eliminate the balance owed, it may allow students to move forward with registering for classes for the fall semester.

Additionally, the EMCC Foundation has funds available from Woodward Hines to assist students with any financial barriers they might be experiencing in completing their degree plans. Students who currently have large balances with the business office that prevent them from registering for future semesters are encouraged to email Marcus Wood, Director of Advancement and Athletics at mwood@eastms.edu for additional information on this grant opportunity.

We look forward to greeting you in person when we return to campus in August!

Sincerely,

Scott Alsobrooks, Ph.D.
President
East Mississippi Community College