

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to Fall 2024 on the Hilltop! As we gear up for the semester ahead in preparing syllabi, I would like to make sure we have an opportunity for clear and consistent communication.

Please view [SMU's evergreen site for required syllabus statements](#) on Title IX, Disability Accommodations, Academic Policies, and Student Support Services. The [SMU Syllabus Library](#) on SMU's cloud syllabus platform will automatically integrate this mandatory language into all syllabi to serve as a resource for faculty and students.

Due to advancements in publicly available Generative AI technology, the SMU Faculty Technology Council has updated the syllabus options for Generative AI use, including the development of a [new statement-building tool](#) that is available in the cloud-based syllabus platform (Simple Syllabus). Beginning this fall, all courses must include a clear statement about Generative AI use with one of these options.

As a reminder, to support the [SMU in Four](#) initiative, all 3-credit undergraduate courses must integrate their syllabus, calendar, and gradebook into Canvas. The SMU Academic Instructional Technology team provides comprehensive support, including a [self-help website](#), dedicated [School/College support through Academic Technology Service Directors \(ATSDs\)](#), and [academic technology workshops from August 13-20](#).

[Updated guidelines for using technology-based modalities for instruction](#) for extenuating circumstances for faculty and students have been added to the university required syllabus statements. Remote teaching, once authorized temporarily by SACSCOC, has not been permitted since May 2022. Please ensure your syllabi are updated to reflect current policies, removing any obsolete COVID-19 information. For disability-related teaching accommodations, contact the Office of Institutional Access and Equity. For courses taught entirely online, approval from the Educational Programs Committee is required, adhering to the SMU Office of Global, Online, and Continuing Education's standards.

Finally, please also familiarize yourself with [SMU's inclement weather and emergency operations guidelines](#) to navigate any potential university announcements.

Thank you for your commitment to a successful Fall 2024. This letter and any further updates will be accessible on the Office of the Provost website under [Provost Communications](#) and will be linked in upcoming Friday updates.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth G. Loba, PhD
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<https://www.smu.edu/provost>