

ACADEMIC NEWS & NOTES

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DATES OF NOTE!

March 1

Dr. Mary Murphy, leading scholar on closing achievement gaps will speak at ISU on **March 1, 9-10am** in Dede III. She will speak to the latest research on student social belonging and how it can be triggered in students, particularly historically underrepresented or marginalized students. More at: <http://www2.indstate.edu/studentsuccess/pdf/Mary%20Murphy%20Talk.pdf>

March 7

Summer 2016 priority registration begins

March 4

First 8 week classes end

March 7

Second 8 week classes begin

March 14

Spring Break

Things to Know!

Faculty Interim Grading

This semester, only the new faculty grading system will be an option for grade entry. Last fall, faculty had an option for both.

There are two major improvements to the system that were installed with the last upgrade:

- student roster displays 25 records as the default instead of 5 records
- SAVE prompt will appear if you attempt to navigate away from the page without saving

Interim grading is Thursday, February 18-Tuesday, February 23, 4 p.m.

Interim grades are required for all undergraduate classes.

Posting Grades in Blackboard

Effective Fall 2015, a new policy was placed in the handbook (approved by Senate and Trustees) that requires faculty to clearly provide the basis of grades on the syllabus, post grades in Blackboard within 2 weeks (unless specified otherwise on syllabus). This policy is not just for the major grades, such as exams, but that all graded activities must be recorded within 2 weeks in Blackboard.

310.1.5 Grades and Standards

Setting standards and grading in classes is the responsibility of the faculty, and individual faculty members should be in a position to justify their grades. The basis of course grades shall be outlined in the syllabus as specified in 310.1.2.1 (above). Grades on all assignments will be posed in the time-frame specified in the syllabus (normally not to exceed two weeks unless otherwise specified, see 310.1.2.1) on the university's instructional computer system (currently Blackboard). Feedback other than grades (comments, notes, qualitative assessments) will be available to students along a similar timeline. Final grade distributions for all academic departments are available each semester. (Note: Effective Fall 2015).

Summer book orders are due March 1

Fall book orders are due March 15

Did you know Student Savings is DIRECTLY linked to ON-TIME book orders - Since the Textbook Policy took effect that at ISU - student savings is up from \$800,000 to \$1.4M.

News from the Assessment Office

The University Assessment Council extends its thanks to the 300 faculty and staff members who participated in the recent student learning assessment survey. You identified your priorities: Workshops that focus on simplifying assessment, designing and assessing critical thinking assignments, and using assessment results to improve teaching. The council will use this information to design its 2016-17 professional development activities.

We also want to congratulate the two units randomly selected to win up to \$250 to purchase refreshments for an assessment-related event: The Department of Chemistry and Physics and New Student Transition Programs. Way to go!

FAD News!

There is a new interface with FAD. Your content hasn't changed, but you will find it easier to navigate. The new interface follows best practices for universal design. If you haven't done so, it's a great time to update your scholarship and service work for 2015-16.

Also, the Fall 2015 classes and advising numbers have been uploaded.

Important Notes for Undergraduate Advisors

- ◆ A reminder that all students on the Sycamore Graduation Guarantee and those student who started Fall 2014 need to have their degree maps updated before the first day of priority registration. If you have any questions about how to do this contact Cory Burger at cory.burger@indstate.edu or ext. 4995.
- ◆ Second 8 weeks classes begin March 7. Most types of financial aid disburse approximately 10 days before the start of classes. If a student doesn't begin classes until the 2nd 8 weeks, financial aid will be delayed until the beginning of the second term. In addition, depending on weeks of instruction, the amount of total aid may be prorated. Students must earn aid based on starting attendance in each class. Other questions about how enrollment impacts aid? See our faculty guide to aid, online at: <http://www2.indstate.edu/finaid/faculty-faq.htm>.
- ◆ You can easily search by faculty, course attribute, etc. in the dynamic schedule of classes. Click in the subject box and Select All (Control-A or click and drag). Now under attribute type, select the FS category you want (for example), and search.