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2015-2016 Academic Calendar

2015 FALL SEMESTER
Monday – Friday, August 10-14.................................................... Professional Development Week
Friday, August 14 ........................................................................ Residence Halls Open for New Students
Friday, August 14 ........................................................................ New Student Convocation
Friday – Sunday, August 14-16..................................................... Welcome Weekend
Monday, August 17 ...................................................................... Classes Begin (Full Term & 1st 8-Week)
Friday, September 4 ..................................................................... Applications for May 2016 Graduation Due
Monday, September 7 .................................................................. Labor Day, No Classes
Friday, October 9 .......................................................................... Mid Semester
Monday, October 12 ................................................................. 2nd 8-week Classes Begin
Monday, Oct 19 – Thursday, Nov 12 .......................................... Scheduling for Spring Semester
Monday-Friday, November 23-27 .............................................. Thanksgiving Recess, No Classes
Monday, November 30 .............................................................. Classes Resume, 8 A.M.
Friday, December 4 ................................................................. Last Day of Classes
Monday-Friday, December 7-11 .................................................. Final Exams
Friday, December 11 ................................................................. Residence Halls Close

2016 SPRING SEMESTER
Monday – Friday, January 11-15.................................................. Professional Development Week
Friday, January 15 ....................................................................... Residence Halls Open for New Students
Friday, January 15 ....................................................................... Orientation
Monday, January 18 .................................................................... Martin Luther King Day, No Classes
Tuesday, January 19 .................................................................. Classes Begin (Full Term & 1st 8-Week)
Friday, February 12 .................................................................... Applications for December 2016 Graduation Due
Friday, March 11 .......................................................................... Mid Semester
Monday – Friday, March 14-18 ...................................................... Spring Break, No Classes
Monday, March 21 ...................................................................... Classes Resume, 8 A.M.
Monday March 21 ...................................................................... 2nd 8-Week Classes Begin
Friday, March 25 .......................................................................... Spring Holiday, No Classes
Monday, March 28 – Thursday, April 21 ...................................... Scheduling for Fall Semester
Friday, May 6 ................................................................................ Last Day of Classes
Monday – Friday, May 9-13 ........................................................ Final Exams
Friday, May 13 ............................................................................. Residence Halls Close
Saturday, May 14 ........................................................................... Commencement

2016 FIRST SUMMER TERM
Monday, May 23 ........................................................................ Classes Begin
Friday, May 27 ............................................................................. Applications for August 2016 Graduation Due
Monday, May 30 ........................................................................ Memorial Day, No Classes
Thursday, June 23 ......................................................................... First Summer Term Ends

2016 SECOND SUMMER TERM
Monday, June 27 ........................................................................ Classes Begin
Monday, July 4 ............................................................................ Independence Day, No Classes
Thursday, July 28 ........................................................................ Second Summer Term Ends
Introduction

Fairmont State University, a comprehensive, multi-site, selective institution offers a quality education in a diverse and supportive learning environment that fosters individual growth, professional and career development, lifelong learning, global understanding, and a commitment to excellence in academic and community pursuits. Serving the citizens of north-central West Virginia and beyond, Fairmont State University is a student-centered institution of first choice among students who desire a flexible and relevant learning experience. The University provides a well-rounded education, enabling students to gain the knowledge and skills needed for self-fulfilling, responsible citizenship and employability in a rapidly changing global environment.

The University concentrates its energies and resources on its students, many of whom are the first generation of their families to attend college, adults returning to college or enrolling in higher education for the first time, and transfer students from community and technical colleges. The University, therefore, offers its diverse student body a wide range of programs, flexible scheduling, and support services, all designed to foster success in the modern world. To strengthen intellectual development, all students pursuing a degree at Fairmont State University are engaged in a General Studies program, a body of coursework designed to expand their knowledge of civilization, society, scientific inquiry, and artistic expression while preparing them to think critically and communicate clearly. Through these studies, students also explore the interrelationships among disciplines and prepare for a lifetime of learning.

The University is committed to student learning and focuses its resources on programs that prepare students for careers and advanced education in West Virginia and beyond. Along with its significant history of teacher education, Fairmont State University provides a broad spectrum of degree options in business, fine and liberal arts, and social and natural sciences and offers programs with specialized accreditation in engineering technology and health careers. Fairmont State University provides seamless transitions from public schools or certificate programs or associate degrees to baccalaureate degrees. In keeping with its tradition of academic excellence, the University promotes graduate education by offering select graduate programs.

Fairmont State University is closely identified with its community. Partnerships with business and industry, public schools, government agencies and other organizations contribute to the economic, cultural, and social development of the region. Through these community relationships and educational programs, the University fosters enlightened and productive citizenship in its immediate locale, the region, and the world.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of Fairmont State University is to provide opportunities for individuals to achieve their professional and personal goals and discover roles for responsible citizenship that promote the common good.

VISION STATEMENT

Fairmont State University aspires to be nationally recognized as a model for accessible learner-centered institutions that promote student success by providing comprehensive education and excellent teaching, flexible learning environments, and superior services. Graduates will have the knowledge, skills, and habits of mind necessary for intellectual growth, full and participatory citizenship, employability, and entrepreneurship in a changing environment.

PHILOSOPHY AND OBJECTIVES

Fairmont State University considers its broad objective to be the education of its students as intelligent and productive persons, capable of participating in and understanding...
the world of the twenty-first century. Accordingly, the University seeks to provide a suitable environment for free and responsible inquiry into the nature, sources and implications of human knowledge and culture, and it challenges students to promote their own intellectual, social, and personal development.

The University faculty serves this objective by guiding students in acquiring knowledge and by maintaining a dialogue with them. The University fully supports the ideal of a well-educated society and upholds the academic freedom of its faculty and students, confident that the best interests of the community are served when the search for truth is imaginative and vigorous.

The University follows a liberal policy of student admissions and believes that it can help highly-motivated students to overcome many challenges in their academic preparation. Because its academic standards are high, the Fairmont State University degree represents a level of achievement respected throughout the nation.

The University has a traditional interest in preparing teachers for public schools in West Virginia, as well as in other states. Recognizing the importance of able teachers to a progressive society, it requires outstanding academic performance of its teacher candidates and offers them sound professional training for elementary and secondary teaching supported by a strong partnership with a network of public schools.

Drawing many students from its immediate vicinity, the University welcomes the enthusiastic support it receives from Fairmont and surrounding areas. In return, it participates actively in community projects, shares its programs and facilities with the public and serves the community as a center of information and culture.

Specifically, the mission of Fairmont State University is to provide programs needed by those in its geographic service area, to the extent permitted by its financial and human resources and its assigned role in the State system of public higher education. This mission is accomplished by meeting these objectives:

- Offering a broad range of traditional baccalaureate degree programs in the arts and sciences, teacher education, and business administration;
- Providing opportunities for occupationally-oriented baccalaureate study through expansion of existing industrial technology programs and the development of additional career-related curricula;
- Bringing selected study opportunities into communities in the University’s service region through the use of the mass media, regional educational centers, external degree programs, and other forms of nontraditional study;
- Encouraging a broad segment of the populace, including various age groups and the economically deprived, to avail themselves of educational opportunities;
- Serving the greatest number of students by holding University costs at the lowest possible level and providing financial support to those who need it to gain equal access to higher education;
- Relating the breadth of the curriculum to the availability of appropriate employment opportunities
- Offering continuing education programs to provide career enhancement, cultural enrichment, and personal skill development;
- Providing advisory, counseling, and placement services to enable students to make satisfactory decisions about academic and personal problems and to make successful career and employment choices;
- Offering a variety of cultural, recreational, and social activities to complement academic pursuits.

DESIRED PROFILE OF A FAIRMONT STATE UNIVERSITY UNDERGRADUATE

Students enrolled at Fairmont State University should work to develop the following profile, consistent with the length and focus of their programs.

Students should:

1) Develop competence in the following skills to aid them in making decisions about personal values and career strategies: critical analysis, quantitative literacy, oral and written communication, reading, teamwork, information literacy, problem solving, and technological literacy.

2) Demonstrate proficiency in their major fields of study that will enable them to compete in the global job market and pursue additional levels of formal education.

3) Understand the responsibilities of citizens, participate in the democratic process, and contribute to their society.

4) Embrace and act upon an ethical view that respects the life, property, opinions, and feelings of others.

5) Acquire the knowledge and habits that lead to physical and mental health and well-being.

6) Understand the complementary nature of their liberal and professional studies and develop the capacity for independent, lifelong learning.

7) Acquire an informed appreciation of the arts, the humanities, and the social and natural sciences.

8) Develop sensitivity in matters of local and global social justice, respecting and appreciating differences among individuals and societies.

Our Core Values: SOAR

Scholarship: To celebrate the joy and wonder of discovery.
Opportunity: To grow, learn, engage, and contribute.
Achievement: To reach personal and community goals.
Responsibility: To fulfill obligations to our selves, the learning community, our society, and the future.
ACCREDITATION

Of great importance to the reputation of a university is how it ranks scholastically with other institutions. Successful accreditation status means that a university has been carefully evaluated and approved in its governance, in each curriculum and program of study, in the quality of its faculty, in the adequacy of facilities, library, equipment, and laboratories.

To assure its stature and academic excellence, a university obtains accreditation from both regional and national agencies and joins accrediting organizations relevant to its academic and professional programs.

Fairmont State University is accredited by The Higher Learning Commission and is a member of the North Central Association, 230 S. LaSalle Street, Suite 7-500, Chicago, IL 60604-1411, (800) 621-7440 x105, http://www.ncahlc.org.

The Teacher Education program is approved by the West Virginia Board of Education and accredited by the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education/ Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation, 2100 Massachusetts Ave., Suite 500, Washington, DC 20036, (202) 223-0077. In addition, selected teaching specializations are nationally approved by their respective learned society and/or professional organization.

Selected programs in the Department of Technology are accredited by the Technology Accreditation Commission of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology, 111 Market Place, Suite 1050, Baltimore, Maryland 21202-4012, (410) 347-7700. The following programs are currently accredited by TAC of ABET: A.S. and B.S. Civil, A.S. and B.S. Electronics, and A.S. and B.S. Mechanical Engineering Technology. In addition, the B.S. Occupational Safety program is accredited by ASAC of ABET.

The A.S. Nursing program is accredited by the West Virginia Board of Examiners for Registered Professional Nurses, 101 Dee Drive, Suite 102, Charleston, WV 25311-1620, (304) 558-3596, http://www.vnboard@wv.gov and the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN), 3343 Peachtree Road NE, Suite 850, Atlanta, Georgia, 30326, (404)975-5000, http://acenursing.org; the B.S. Nursing program is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), One Dupont Circle, NW Suite 530, Washington, DC, 20036, (202) 887-8476, http://www.aacn.nche.edu.

The School of Business is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP) 11520 North Westlawn Drive, Suite 500, Overland Park, KS 66213, (913) 339-9356, www.acbsp.org.

The University is also a member of the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, National League for Nursing, American Library Association, Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) West Virginia Chapter, and Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE).

MAIN CAMPUS

Fairmont State University is located on a 120-acre main campus in Fairmont, West Virginia. With a population of about 19,000, Fairmont, located approximately 90 miles south of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, is the seat of government for Marion County. The University provides students with the opportunity to find their future from associate degrees, bachelor’s degrees and graduate programs. Visit us online at www.fairmontstate.edu.

In its overarching desire to help transform lives, FSU values scholarship, opportunity, achievement, and responsibility. The mission of FSU is to provide opportunities for individuals to achieve their professional and personal goals and discover roles for responsible citizenship that promote the common good.

FSU is part of the state’s growing high technology corridor with a metro area of approximately 50,000 residents. With an enrollment of 4,600, FSU offers more than 80 baccalaureate degrees and graduate programs in business, criminal justice, architecture, and education. A growing number of undergraduate courses and graduate programs are offered online, increasing FSU’s accessibility. To support the transition from undergraduate to graduate studies, FSU offers concurrent enrollment opportunities for qualifying students. The main campus is home to the Frank and Jane Gabor West Virginia Folklife Center. FSU also offers classes at a satellite campus in Clarksburg called the Gaston Caperton Center and at the Robert C. Byrd National Aerospace Education Center in Bridgeport.

GASTON CAPERTON CENTER

The Gaston Caperton Center is a satellite campus located at 501 W. Main Street in downtown Clarksburg, Clarksburg, the seat of Harrison County, is approximately 23 miles from Fairmont. The Gaston Caperton Center serves as a site for delivery of a wide variety of courses for students enrolled in Fairmont State University. The Center is open from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. on Friday. The Center is closed on Saturday. Students can complete the General Studies requirements for Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees and all course requirements for the B.S. in Business Administration with an emphasis in General Business. The business common core for all baccalaureate business degrees may also be completed.

The Center comprises a 36,000 square foot, state-of-the-art building boasting the latest in computer connectivity, modern classrooms, computer and natural-science labs, conference facilities, and the Teaching-Learning Commons (formerly the library). The facility has 15 classrooms including three computer classrooms; one life-sciences lab for general biology, anatomy and physiology, etc.; and one physics lab for general physics, electronics and/or other technical courses. In addition to one hundred computers, which faculty use for direct instruction or instructional-support activities, the building has wireless access as well as a number of courtesy ports which allow students with laptop computers to connect directly into the college’s network.

The facility has two multi-purpose meeting rooms that serve as large lecture halls which will seat 54 or 75 people respectively; when combined, the rooms accommodate 200 in auditorium seating or 125 at tables in a single room. Four small conference rooms are also available.

The Teaching-Learning Commons (TLC) houses thirty-four computers in two labs. Students may access the Internet and electronic databases and resources, study, complete homework assignments, and perform email functions in the TLC. The TLC is open and staffed for the same operating hours as the facility. A TLC staff member....
is available to assist students and faculty with technology, research, and library needs.

In addition to various small seating areas in the building, there are two student-lounge areas, one faculty lounge, a portico seating area and an adjacent walled courtyard with bench and wall seating.

The Center is fully accessible to students with disabilities; an elevator serves all three floors, and there are accessible restroom facilities on each floor. The Center has over 200 parking spaces in five separate lots with handicapped parking near the rear entrance.

Students at the Gaston Caperton Center may avail themselves of support services offered in conjunction with the main campus including counseling, financial aid, disability services, food services, and advising.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The Fairmont State Alumni Association, founded in 1873, is the official organization representing graduates of Fairmont State (including Fairmont State Normal School, Fairmont State Teachers College, Fairmont State College, Fairmont State University). The Association is led by an elected, unpaid, volunteer Board consisting of graduates of Fairmont State.

The purpose of the Fairmont State Alumni Association is to unite its members in an effective organization dedicated to the advancement of Fairmont State:

a. strengthening the relationship between the alumni and Fairmont State through effective communication and collaboration about current programs, activities, and needs;
b. perpetuating and strengthening the bonds of loyalty and friendship among alumni;
c. supporting Fairmont State-sponsored activities, on and off-campus, that enrich the life of the institutions, their students, and community, as well as provide incentive for participation;
d. representing the interests of alumni to the institutions, by providing information and making recommendations for action;
e. assisting the institutions, their student body and alumni members with vocational guidance and job placement;
f. taking such other action as may be deemed appropriate for the advancement of the Institutions and the Association.

Contact the Fairmont State Alumni Association through the Director of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving at:

Director of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving
Erickson Alumni Center
1201 Locust Avenue
Fairmont, WV 26554

Direct Dial: (304) 367-4015
Fax: (304) 367-4742
Toll Free (866) 372-ALUM
Web: www.fairmontstate.edu/alumni

Visit the Erickson Alumni Center at 1300 Locust Avenue, Fairmont, West Virginia.

CATALOG POLICY

It is the responsibility of students to be knowledgeable of official FSU policies and to meet all requirements in the Catalog. It provides the best possible current information on practices and intentions of the institution. FSU reserves the right to change provisions or requirements at any time to reflect curricular changes and administrative regulations and procedures. The Catalog is not considered a binding contract between the student and the institution; it is for informational purposes only.

Students should keep informed of current degree, curriculum, and course requirements. The academic advisors and appropriate administrative offices of FSU may be consulted for further information.

A student who enrolls at FSU shall follow the degree provisions of the catalog in use at the time of admission or any subsequent catalog, providing the entire subsequent catalog is adopted.

Students who have interrupted their schooling for one semester (not including the summer term) must reapply for admission. Any previous holds must be removed before readmission can occur. Students who have attended another institution during this absence are considered to be transfer students and must comply with the requirements listed above.

Please note that academic policies can change each year and apply to all students regardless of when you begin your studies. Refer to the current catalog each year for academic policies.

EMAIL ACCOUNT POLICY

The FSU e-mail address assigned to a student will serve as the official email address used by the institution for all correspondence including invoices, financial aid notifications, and information from the Student Services Center. Students are responsible for all information sent from these and other official offices of the institution. Failure to read e-mail messages will not constitute an exception. The Admissions Office will send an official admission letter informing students of their email account and Unified College Account (UCA) and how to activate the UCA. The Admissions Office will also formally notify students of our institution’s policies regarding the use of FSU email for all major institutional correspondence. No other email addresses will be included when emails are sent. The parents’ email address will be collected at Orientation for new students and the first invoice will be sent to those addresses in addition to the student.

POLICY ON EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

Fairmont State University is an Equal Opportunity-Affirmative Action Institution. The University is subject to the Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; Sections 503
and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended; the Age Discrimination in Employment Act; the Equal Pay Act; the Vietnam Era Veterans’ Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974; Federal Executive Order 11246; and the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 (GINA), all as amended, and other applicable laws and regulations. The institution provides equal opportunity to all prospective and current members of the student body, faculty, and staff on the basis of individual qualifications and merit without regard to race, color, gender, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression/association, national origin, age, height, weight, religion, creed, genetic information, disability or veteran’s status, as identified and defined by law in employment, admissions, and educational programs and activities. Fairmont State University neither affiliates knowingly with nor grants recognition to any individual, group or organization having policies that discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression/association, national origin, age, height, weight, religion, creed, genetic information, disability or veteran’s status, as identified and defined by law in employment, admissions, and educational programs and activities.

Further inquiries may be directed to the Director of Affirmative Action, who is the Section 504, Title IX Coordinator, located in Room 324 Hardway Hall, (304) 367-4386, or the Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator, located in the Turley Student Services Center, (304) 367-4686.

SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, students with disabilities are due reasonable accommodations in their academic pursuits. A student’s disability should not unfairly interfere with his or her learning process or evaluation and grading. The Office of Disability Services collaborates with students, instructors, staff, and community members to create diverse learning environments that are usable, equitable, inclusive and sustainable. Students are required to contact the Office of Disability Services to initiate the provision of accommodations. The Office of Disability Services is located in 316 Turley Student Services Center and can be reached at (304) 333-3661. For more information please visit our website www.fairmontstate.edu/access.

THE FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 provides students with the right to inspect and review information contained in their educational records, to challenge the contents of their educational records, to have a hearing if the outcome of the challenge is unsatisfactory, and to submit explanatory statements for inclusion in their files if they feel the decisions of the hearing panels are unacceptable. Students wishing to review their educational records must contact the campus official in charge of the office in which the records are located. Students may not inspect records to which they have waived their rights of inspection and review.

Within the FSU community, only those members, individually or collectively, acting in the student’s educational interest is allowed access to student education records. These members include personnel in the offices of Admissions and Records, Student Services, Financial Aid, Business, academic colleges and schools, departments, academic advisors, and athletic departments. These school officials have a legitimate educational interest in the student’s education record if the school official requires such information to: fulfill his or her responsibility or duty to the University; perform tasks within the scope of his or her employment or within the scope of a contract with the University; perform a task related to a student’s education; perform a task related to the discipline of a student; provide a service or benefit relating to the student or student’s family, such as health care, counseling, job placement, pastoral counseling, or financial aid; or maintain the safety and security of the campus.

At its discretion, the institution may provide Directory Information in accordance with the provisions of the Act to include: student name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, major field of study, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received, the most recent previous educational agency or institution attended by the student, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, and weight and height of members of athletic teams. Students may withhold directory information by notifying the Student Services Center in writing.

FSU may disclose academic information to parents of students by having parents establish the student’s dependency as defined by the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, Section 152. Dependency status may be established by the presentation of a certified copy of the parents’ most recent federal income tax form listing the student as a dependent.

DRUG-FREE AWARENESS PROGRAM

In compliance with the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988 and the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act Amendments of 1989, Fairmont State University has a Drug-Free Awareness Program designed to prevent the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol by students and employees. Further inquiries rising from employment issues or concerns may be directed to the Assistant Vice President of Human Resources; student issues or concerns may be directed to the Vice President for Student Services.

COMPLIANCE WITH MILITARY SELECTIVE SERVICE ACT

State law provides that a male person who has attained the age of eighteen (18) years may not enroll in a state-supported institution of postsecondary education unless he is in compliance with the Military Selective Service Act (50 U.S. Code, Appendix 451, et seq. and the amendments thereto). Also, a male person may not receive a loan, grant, scholarship or other financial assistance for postsecondary higher education funded by state revenue, including
federal funds or gifts accepted by this State, or receive a student loan guaranteed by the State unless he is in compliance with the Military Selective Service Act. Selective Service Act registration information should be available at all United States Postal Service facilities and may be available at some high schools. The Selective Service System also provides information through a web site at http://www.sss.gov.