



**Alcorn**  
State University

**TO:** Alcorn Students

**FROM:** Ontario S. Wooden, Ph.D.  
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

**DATE:** January 25, 2022

**RE:** Course Offerings

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Happy New Year! I hope you had an enjoyable and restful break and have hit the ground running with a new, exciting semester at Alcorn State University. As we begin a new semester, I want to offer insight into a concern we continue to address — course availability and scheduling.

Over the past two years, the Division of Academic Affairs has taken a student-centered approach to provide the best course offerings each semester. Department chairs and deans have been tasked with creating course rotations that would offer appropriate courses in the fall and spring semesters to ensure timely graduation for every student at Alcorn. While courses with low enrollments have been canceled, we continually seek alternative options to address student degree progress (i.e., course substitutions, independent study, etc.).

The reduction of course offerings in no way is intended to delay graduation for any student, but rather to ensure that we are offering courses aligned with degree plans in agreement with expectations from Federal Student Aid. In addition, retention, progression, and graduation of students are performance measures for the University. It is in the institution's best interest to ensure that processes allow for a smooth transition between semesters and the timely graduation of all students.

Academic Affairs has continuously worked with students, faculty, administrators, and other concerned parties to promptly address each student's concern. However, I continue to receive reports that students are concerned about timely graduation due to a lack of course offerings and course scheduling assistance. Please contact your academic advisor with questions or concerns regarding course offerings and course scheduling assistance. If your issue has not been resolved after meeting with your University College or department academic advisor, please use the chain of command through your department chair and dean. Finally, if the issue remains, contact Dr. Joyce Buckner-Brown, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education and Student Success, at [jbucknerbrown@alcorn.edu](mailto:jbucknerbrown@alcorn.edu). Also, feel free to send your concern to <https://www.alcorn.edu/academics/provost-memos/facultystaff-resources/student-complaint-portal>.

I remain open to conversations, suggestions, and recommendations to ensure that students feel heard in this process. I will continue to work with students who have various issues that impact graduation to find a path forward. I am committed to resolving any challenge that delays graduation for our students.

I wish you the very best for a great semester!