



OFFICE OF THE PROVOST

April 17, 2026

Dear Colleagues,

We have experienced an enormously challenging semester where the whole AUB community needed to adapt to continuously changing conditions. On behalf of the university, I would like to reiterate my sincere gratitude for your hard work and commitment to ensuring academic and operational continuity. We recognize that you have done so while experiencing stress, threats to safety, and in some cases, forced displacement and even the loss of homes and loved ones.

With a ceasefire now in place, I am writing with guidance as we move through the end of this spring semester.

Resuming instructional activity on campus

With the aim of providing our students with a full university experience during what is left of the semester, **as of Monday, April 20, teaching and learning will be in-person.** Students who cannot come to campus should request your permission to continue online, with synchronous access to class lectures. Please be considerate of your students' specific circumstances.

If you are currently outside the country, please arrange to return to Lebanon as soon as possible to complete the spring semester on campus.

Final exams and thesis defense

As per directives from the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE), all final exams must be held in person on campus. Exams will follow the [revised academic calendar](#) with the [exam schedule](#) between May 8 and 17. As a reminder, a final exam cannot be allocated more than 40% of the total course grade. Attendance of students at each final exam must be taken, with student signatures and records retained for submission to MEHE.

In calculating final grades for your courses, while keeping in mind your course learning objectives, please compare your course averages to past semesters and consider

applying appropriate raises to ensure as much as possible that students are not penalized for this challenging semester.

All master's and PhD thesis defenses must also take place in-person on campus by the extended deadline of May 7.

Any graduating students who cannot return to campus for final exams or their thesis defense will need to defer their graduation.

'Incomplete' grades

It is likely that there will be a high number of students who will submit petitions for 'incomplete' grades in their courses. The reasons for an 'incomplete' grade may include key course deliverables that need to be completed and/or missed assessments including final exams. We have revised the petition to simplify the workflow and remove the requirement for students to submit documents. You will be required to approve the petitions and enter any 'incomplete' grades by May 20. As per policy, final grades for the completed work must then be submitted by September 30.

To ensure that students with 'incomplete' grades complete their spring course requirements, please make necessary arrangements well ahead of September 30. This may entail, for example, i. giving tutorials to cover remaining course material; ii. providing guidance to finish assignments and projects; iii. supervising students to complete experiential learning components in labs, studios, or rotations; and iv. holding makeup exams.

Commencement and summer term

Commencement for the class of 2025-26 is scheduled to take place on June 5 and 6. The summer term is scheduled to start in-person on June 1, with advising and course registration for new students on Tuesday, May 5.

We look forward to see our campus regaining its vibrancy and everyone making plans for their teaching, research, and service/outreach in ways that have not been possible in the last few weeks.

Sincerely,

Zaher Dawy, PhD
Provost