



COMMUNICATION MEMO

Office of the Vice-President Academic and Research
Office of the Academic Dean

2020-06-11

MEMO: Academic program/course delivery, 2021-22

TO: Algoma University Community

FR: Donna M. Rogers, Vice-President Academic and Research
István Imre, Acting Academic Dean

Yesterday, Ontario administered almost 200,000 COVID-19 vaccinations, a one-day record--vaccination rates are climbing fast, and infection rates are dropping. We are very optimistic for the coming months, and we write to you today to let you know Algoma University's plans for fall delivery.

As always, the safety of our community is the foremost consideration in our planning. We are and will continue to be guided by government direction and public health guidance over the next academic year; our Pandemic Task Force is monitoring all key indicators (such as vaccination and infection rates) and all provincial and public health directives.

The Fall term 2021 will be a transitional term: we are planning to conduct classes, labs and tutorials in person, on campus, to the fullest extent possible. For maximum flexibility, this approach will include a variety of options--including *in-person*, *blended*, *hybrid*, *technology-assisted*, and *distance-education* instruction*--with as much as possible being delivered in-person. Algoma University does offer a large suite of courses via eLearning; in high-enrolment programs, many courses will be available both

on campus and online to ensure student choice and student demand are satisfied. We are also working to use our classrooms to the fullest capacity, scheduling in all possible timetable slots. This approach will prepare us for a full return to our campuses in January 2022.

For the Sault Ste. Marie and Brampton campuses, classrooms will be assigned by the Office of the Registrar as part of the normal timetabling/scheduling processes. For the Timmins campus, classes will also be scheduled by the Office of the Registrar; we will follow Northern College's direction re classrooms.

The Office of the Dean will continue to work with faculty, departments, schools and faculties to coordinate the details pertaining to their programs. Full-time faculty should ensure that they are ready to provide accurate academic advising to continuing students; Student Success Central will provide advising to incoming students.

We recognize that the pandemic has disrupted our normal operations and that it has been challenging for everyone. We are optimistic that Fall 2021 will be a much more familiar campus experience for all--we can't wait to welcome everyone back!

*** Definitions:**

In-person instruction: means a class that meets in a classroom at the scheduled time/day, with the instructor and all students present (synchronous).

Blended instruction: means a class for which the instructor is present in the classroom at the scheduled time/day (synchronous), with \pm 50% of the students present, and \pm 50% of the students doing self-directed learning, including but not limited to activities such as sustained reading, completing assignments, watching recorded lectures on their own schedule (asynchronous). The student groups flip each week.

Hybrid instruction (also called "HyFlex"): means a class for which the instructor is present in the classroom at the scheduled time/day, with students present who wish to attend in person, and students who prefer not to attend in person participating remotely at the same time (synchronous). The student

makes the choice for any given class and can switch as needed. *Requires additional support for content preparation, technology and class management.*

Technology-assisted instruction (TAI): means a class for which the instructor gives the class via meeting technology (e.g., Zoom, Google Meet) at the scheduled time/day (synchronous), with students attending and participating remotely. Delivered on the Moodle platform.

Distance education: means a class for which the course materials--lectures, videos, assignments, assessments, discussion boards, etc.--are prepared prior to course delivery, and which students take on their own schedule (asynchronous). Delivered on the Brightspace platform.