



April 6, 2020

Dear Chairs and Directors:

As we move into the final exams period, the VP Dean's Office wanted to bring two items to your attention that you should pass along to your instructors.

1. Please remind your instructors that if they are holding an online exam that they should make arrangements to "be available" to students if they have questions during the exam. In this case, this arrangement is not conceptually different from instructors being available during an in-person exam, when students could simply raise their hands to ask a question regarding some aspect of the exam. Please remind instructors that such availability is important to ensure that we keep any adverse effects of the change in venue/format of their exams to a minimum.
2. Included in this message is language that instructors might wish to use on their assessments related to asking students to make an [honour pledge](#) regarding academic integrity issues. This language was developed by University of Toronto faculty member, Dr. Nicholas Rule, Department of Psychology, a Tier II Canada Research Chair, and asks students to attest that the work on this assessment is their own. According to research by Dr. Rule and others, such a focus is more effective in inspiring students to assimilate standards of academic integrity, as opposed to a more punishment-oriented approach.

Sincerely,

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