



MEMORANDUM DCD #17, 2021-22

To: Chairs, University of Toronto Scarborough
Cc: Chairs' Assistants, Departmental Business Officers,
Undergraduate Coordinators & Departmental Assistants
From: Office of the Vice-Principal Academic & Dean and Office of the Registrar
Date: 8 November 2021
Re: Fall Exams

Dear U of T Scarborough Chairs,

As Fall final exams are quickly approaching, we want to review several key points, given that this exam period continues to be different than usual. Please ensure this information is distributed to all Fall course instructors and administrative staff in your unit.

Deferred examination period: **7-21 December 2021**

Final examination period: **9-21 December 2021**

A) Exam and Assessment Design:

1. While we urge instructors to explore a range of appropriate assessment methods, the Centre for Teaching & Learning (CTL) remains eager to assist with final exam, and deferred exam, preparation and delivery. Please ensure that any exam frameworks can be supported by CTL (using Quercus "quiz" or "assignment"). For detailed information on designing your assessments, promoting academic integrity, and administering exams in Quercus - including possible exam formats and directions on using the Honour Pledge - please refer to the Academic Continuity Resources sites:

For assessment design: <https://uoft.me/AcademicContinuity-assessment>

For exam resources: <https://uoft.me/AcademicContinuity-exams>

2. For instructor questions and support related to the development of exams and final assessments, contact quercus.utsc@utoronto.ca.
3. CTL continues to offer 30-minute 1:1 virtual consultation on a rolling daily basis. An ed tech will work with faculty to get their exam loaded and properly configured during these sessions. Appointments should be booked online at: <https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/UTSCCentreforTeachingandLearning@utoronto.onmicrosoft.com/bookings/>
4. Original is the New Plagiarism Detection Tool. To learn more about the plagiarism detection software - <https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/46670/pages/integrationplagiarism-detection-tool>. Instructors can email quercus.utsc@utoronto.ca for direct assistance.

For more information - https://hive.utsc.utoronto.ca/public/dean/academic%20administrators/DCD%202021-22/DCD6_Original_New_Plagiarism_Detection_Tool_August2021.pdf

B) Issues Encountered During Exam Administration:

1. If instructors or students encounter technical issues during an exam, IITS Help Desk Staff are available. Instructors should contact the Staff & Faculty Help Desk at servicedesk.utsc@utoronto.ca and students should contact student-helpdesk@utsc.utoronto.ca and/or 416-287-4357. For Quercus set-up, CTL staff are available by appointment, or by email, in preparation for the exam period at quercus.utsc@utoronto.ca. In-person technical support for instructors and students will be available in BV487. We strongly recommend that both instructors and students avail themselves of the mock exams available here: <https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/187560/assignments>
2. If student identification is required for the online final examination, please inform students of the specific ID policy well in advance. Please allow students to use government-issued photo ID in lieu of TCards since many students may not yet have received their TCards. As the campus has been less accessible during lockdown, students may be studying out of the city or province, and TCards cannot be sent through mail.

3. If a student has technical issues uploading their final exam by the deadline, they are instructed to first contact the [Student Helpdesk](#). If this does not resolve their issue, they should contact the instructor via email with an unofficial copy of their exam. *Faculty should use their discretion when accepting late submissions of final exams and are encouraged to be flexible whenever possible recognizing the challenges of this time for students.*
4. If an instructor will not accept the late submission of a final exam, please keep it on file and ask the student to submit a [petition to the Office of the Registrar](#). If the student's petition is approved, the Petitions Office will then contact the instructor directly and ask for it to be graded.
5. If an instructor encounters a situation related to academic integrity, behaviour, or illness in the context of their exam, they should complete the appropriate Exam Incident Report and submit that form to the department office: [Exam Incident Report \(academic integrity\)](#) or [Exam Incident Report \(behavior/illness\)](#).

C) Required Alternate Arrangements:

1. Accommodated Exams for Students Registered with AccessAbility Services

- a. Students registered with AccessAbility Services will submit their accommodation request through the Office of the Registrar. In implementing time-based accommodations for timed final exams hosted on Quercus, instructors have two options:
 - i. **Preferred option:** If they have not already done so, instructors can grant Accommodated Tests & Exams staff in the Office of the Registrar access to courses that are hosted on Quercus, and they will implement the time-based accommodations for students on behalf of faculty members. This ensures students receive their appropriate accommodations and relieves instructors from having to take on the additional administrative tasks of calculating writing time for individual students in their courses.
 - ii. If faculty members prefer to apply the accommodations on their own, five days before the final exam the Accommodated Tests & Exams team will send a list of students requiring extra-time accommodations, as well as their extra time allotment. Instructions on applying extra time and extensions on Quercus will be provided by CTL and the Accommodated Tests & Exams team.
- b. For take-home exams, students will submit any required extension requests through their Disability Consultants (DC) at AccessAbility Services, and the student's DC will reach out to faculty members to implement the extensions.
- c. Some students writing with extra time accommodations may need to start their exams earlier than the class in order to end by 11 PM. If students must start earlier than the class, the Office of the Registrar will ensure there is overlap between the student writing time and the class writing time, unless there is a disability-related reason for the exam to be moved to a different date and/or time entirely.

2. Conflict Exams Including Time-Zone Conflicts

- a. As is standard practice, exams are scheduled with student course enrolment taken into account to minimize exam timetable conflicts and to provide adequate separation of common course combinations. Online timed exams are scheduled in the same way that they normally are; take-home exams that have an extended period to complete are scheduled to avoid conflicts at the submission deadline.
- b. Conflicts can never be completely eliminated, and the exam conflict policy remains in force for this exam period. It requires students to notify the Office of the Registrar if they a) have a direct conflict with two exams that overlap (may involve exams from U of T St. George (UTSG) and U of T Mississauga (UTM); b) have three consecutive exams in four consecutive time slots; or c) have a conflicting religious observance. We are once again augmenting this policy to address problems arising from significant time zone differences, as well as the possibility of conflicting take-home exam due dates.
- c. Students are required to request consideration of exam conflicts by **November 18**, and instructors will be informed of any time zone conflict resolutions by the Office of the Registrar as they are implemented.

Instructors will be informed of any time zone resolutions at least one week prior to the conflict date if students submit their requests by the deadline.

- d. In implementing conflict resolutions for timed final exams hosted on Quercus, instructors have two options:
 - i. Instructors grant access for the Examination staff in the Office of the Registrar to the courses that are hosted on Quercus, and our office will implement the conflict resolution on behalf of the faculty. This ensures students receive their conflict resolution in time and relieves instructors from having to take on the additional administrative tasks of arranging conflict resolution time for individual students in their courses.
 - ii. If instructors prefer to handle the conflict resolution on their own, the Examination team will inform instructors with the conflict resolutions at least one week prior to the conflict date.
- e. Please note students with exam conflicts could also be registered with *AccessAbility Services*. The Examination Team will collaborate with the Accommodated Tests & Exams Team to provide a common conflict resolution, which resolves student's conflicts and allows them to write the exam with the appropriate accommodation.

3. In-Person Exams

- a. If instructors experience a problem during an in-person exam, contact the Exam Support Team at (416) 287-7540. They are available on campus during any in-person exams.
- b. Students, invigilators, instructors, TAs must follow the safety protocols for in-person exams.
<https://www.utoronto.ca/home/utogether>

D) Post Exam Administration:

1. As was the case during the Summer 2021 session standard deadlines for submission of grades are in effect. Please ensure that final grades are submitted no later than five business days following the exam, the submission deadline for a take-home exam or the final day of classes for courses in which there is no final exam. If COVID related challenges will affect an instructor's ability to deliver grades on time, this should be discussed proactively with the Chair.
2. Electronic storage of exams within departments is required for potential petitions and re-read requests as well as exam viewing and clerical check requests. All instructors must ensure that their exams are downloaded for archiving. For instructor guidance on the electronic archiving of exams, please refer to the exam resources section of the Academic Continuity site: <https://uoft.me/AcademicContinuity-exams>.
3. As is standard practice, students have the right to petition for a deferred exam if they miss a final exam (or equivalent) in a course. Students are also currently instructed to self-declare an absence using the Acorn-based form. This declaration will be accepted as satisfactory documentation of absence, and instructors should not be requesting further documentation. For other reasons for missing an exam, including connectivity issues, students will be required to explain the circumstances, and instructors may be asked for any corroborating observations they may be able to provide (i.e., emails with students, log activities in Quercus, etc.). Students in this position should be directed to the Office of the Registrar. To assist with timely processing of petitions, instructors are kindly asked to respond as promptly as possible to any inquiries from the Office of the Registrar.

E) Submission of term assignments and deadlines

Instructors are reminded that they have the discretion to grant, with their Chair or Director's approval, an extension for up to one week after the last day to submit term work (<https://www.utoronto.ca/registrar/term-work>). Note that this does not require a petition but instructors who choose to accept such a student request are also asked to request that your departmental administrative staff member notify Jeanine O'Carroll at jeanine.ocarroll@utoronto.ca as it may alter the date by which final grades for the course must be submitted.

Questions related to final exams can be directed to Curtis Cole, Registrar & Assistant Dean Enrolment Management, at curtis.cole@utoronto.ca.