



The 20/21 Academic Year: Updates

NEWSLETTER / NO. 1 AUGUST 2020

Navigating the Journey Together



Along the Journey: Milestones

Faculty, staff, and students have been moving mountains this summer getting ready for the fall and winter terms:

- Resumption of Research Framework established. More than 76 authorized critical, on-campus research projects as of July 31, 2020. Research that can be conducted virtually and does not involve face-to-face interaction has continued unabated.
- Safe Return to Campus website: procedures and protocols.
- Over 1,000 members of the campus community faculty have worked with the CTL or OOL since March, including more than half of all faculty members.
- Planning for Winter '21 underway.
- Over 75 students hired to support instructional re-design and student learning as we gear up for the Fall term.

Update on W21 Planning on page 3



Fully online summer/intersession successfully underway

Help with Fall Courses

- New [Teaching Online](#) website
- [Syllabus language for online courses](#)
- Register for [workshops, design sprints, or courses](#)
- [Request help](#) from a student online learning assistant or a digital rover (or by email at OLCourseHelp@uwindsor.ca)

New Learning Technologies

The U has invested over \$1.7 million in new technology and support for online learning this year. This includes:

- Better Examinations – cloud-based scalable easy to use exam development tool
- Working with BetterExaminations (ProctorExam) to provide solutions for fall and beyond
- YuJa: integrated video creation, lecture capture and management interactivity
- New positions funded to support faculty and course re-design
- Renovation of three large classrooms to support synchronous teaching approaches

Learning Technology Support

- IT Service Desk support resources have been enhanced to include expanded service hours new live chat functions in Fall 20
- MS Teams training and development of training resources

Online Resources:

- [Getting Started](#)
- [Working Remotely](#)
- [UWindsor Tech Talks](#)
- [Using LinkedIn Learning](#)
- [Tech Support](#)

Resumption of On-Campus Research



- The University's [Resumption of Research Framework & Request for Research Form, and Safety Plan](#)
- WE-Spark Rapid Response COVID-19 supported 21 projects in a range of fields at UWindsor and partner institutions
- [COVID-19 Research on Campus](#)
- Office of Research and Innovation Services [COVID-19 Research and Innovation Guidance webpage](#)

Policy and Procedure Updates

- Student [Self-Report of Illness procedure](#) extended through December 2020
- Procedure and approved exceptions to evaluation weighting limits in Digital Learning Resources for Instructional and Assessment Purposes [amended for the COVID-19 period](#)
- [Registrar's COVID-19 Updates](#)



NEW FACULTY ORIENTATION

This year, getting to know people on campus might be different from usual – if you have a new colleague in your department, why not reach out?

Virtual New Faculty Orientation

NFO welcomed 47 new faculty members to campus, introducing new faculty members to each other, their campus community, and the possibilities of scholarship, life, and learning at UWindsor.

- The traditional Campus Network Fair brought 40 services and department together for one-on-one meetings, only this year, virtually. [Here's the site.](#)
- Check out your new colleagues' [one-minute research talks slides](#)
- If you're an early-career faculty member and you're interested in joining a campus mentorship circle, [contact us!](#)

Thanks very much to everyone who helped make NFO a success!



Establishing F2F Priorities for W21

Academic priorities for face-to-face learning vary across disciplines, and faculties are working to make those determinations themselves. That said, campus space is at a premium for Winter 21, and the Provost's office is working with the Deans to determine fair and equitable ways to share learning spaces. Here are some key principles:

- For Winter semester only, all classroom spaces are being treated as 'general' classrooms that can be assigned by the Registrar, and many spaces that are not typically classroom spaces have been added.
- Possible priority areas were identified for faculties to consider, including those where face-to-face activities are necessary for:
 - program accreditation
 - development of foundational disciplinary skills
 - program completion
 - laboratory sections, studio courses, and other required experiential components
 - undergraduate and graduate research
 - co-curricular programming enabling experiential opportunities for students
- Courses can only be offered if they can meet health and safety guidelines.
- Instructors of face-to-face courses must plan for necessary accommodation of return to online format across the university, and for students who must quarantine or self-isolate.

Winter 21: Spaces

We want to offer as much of the Winter semester face-to-face as is safely and practically possible for instructors and students, based on priorities established by the faculties. That said, we're working under conditions that limit how much classroom space we have. Here's what we know so far:

- Health authority guidelines are tending to result in classroom capacities between 20% (fixed seating) and 30% (non-fixed seating), and under all circumstances, we can only have 50 students total in any room. In practical terms that means that we have about 15 classrooms that can seat 30 students or more.
- Consultants are establishing capacity in STEM teaching labs. We are hopeful that the capacities in those spaces may be higher.
- We are expanding the classroom options by leveraging as many non-traditional learning spaces (e.g. Alumni Auditorium) as possible.
- We're scheduling 30 minutes passing time between classes to limit entry and exit congestion, and in some cases staggering class start times.
- All of this means dramatically reduced space.
- We are working with faculties to map their priorities against the number of course slots possible.
- Zone and flow and safety planning for Winter courses and classrooms is underway and will provide guidance for how courses and on-campus activities can operate as safely as possible.
- For W21 we will be developing standard operating procedures for typical course types (e.g., lecture, lab, experiential, shared equipment). Instructors can adopt those procedures or consult on alternative plans.

UWINDSOR TOGETHER

A SAFE RETURN TO CAMPUS



Stephen and Vicki Adams Welcome Centre



Return to Campus News

Teams from across campus are planning for a safe return to campus. This new website provides the [most current information about health and safety protocols](#) that may affect your planning and activities.

- Return to Campus [Guiding Principles and Working Groups](#)
- [Return to Campus Framework](#)
- [Health, Safety, and Wellness Guidelines](#)

Questions? Suggestions? [Please write to us!](#)

Updates: Student & Campus Services

- Leddy Library continues to offer [research consultations and services online](#). [Contactless Pickup and Digitization](#) enable borrowing of physical library material. Planning is underway to offer a **Controlled Technology Access Point** this fall, so that limited numbers of students can book appointments to use library computers.
- Physical **course reserves will not be available** to students this semester. The Library encourages the use of [Open Access](#) and [Open Educational Resources](#) to support course work. [Librarians are available](#) to help faculty members identify these resources.
- The [Campus Bookstore](#) offers curbside pick up and shipping.
- [International Student Centre](#): online advising and self-help materials for visas, study permits, health insurance, etc; virtual courses and workshops customized to COVID conditions
- **Online Student Services**: [Writing Support Desk](#), [Academic Advising](#), [Student Accessibility Services](#), [Student Health Services](#) and [Student Counselling Centre](#); [Sexual Assault and Sexual Misconduct Response and Prevention Office](#), [Registrar](#), [Cashier's Office](#), [EpiCentre](#)
- **Student Success and Leadership Centre**: Enhanced campus community engagement for [Head Start](#); new Community Builder program offers online peer mentorship through mid-October with a friendly inter-faculty competition component. [Virtual welcome week](#) with many campus partners.
- **Experiential Learning**: Online resources and programs for [students](#), and for instructors, on [remote and online experiential learning](#)
- [Registrar's COVID updates](#)
- [Student Wellbeing Portal](#)
- All students will be added to the Student Orientation to Blackboard course site – practice submitting assignments and submitting tests and access to a Virtual Classroom tutorial. More resources to follow!



Connections

This year, a lot of us are missing the places and people that form our daily informal social connections.

As members of the UWindsor faculty and librarian community we'd like to create some engaging online groups to support social interaction over the upcoming academic year. Our goal is to have representatives from every Faculty and the Library to sit on a small working group to help promote ideas and events that we can offer throughout the year, and we'd like to invite you to consider joining that group.

Activities and groups might take place in different ways, and might be just or a small group of friends, for your department or Faculty, or for the UWindsor community as a whole. Here are some of the ideas we've thought of so far:

1. Start a group and post it on our dedicated webpage – name a day and time, topic and set up a meeting link for a topic or activity you'd like to pursue with others
2. Invite guests from our local community to host interactive events for example, Wines and Beers of Windsor-Essex Count workshops guided by local vintners and brewmasters - pick up a couple local bottles for home and join the online session!
3. Investigating Windsor-Essex History
4. Host demonstrations, like cook-along demos with the recipes provided in advance
5. Host a trivia night through Kahoot or House Party
6. Start a book club based on your favourite author – how about we start with Heidi Jacobs Leacock Medal winning book?
7. Share book or movie reviews (WIFF movie selections), or enjoy a movie night together
8. Family activities
9. Work on a fundraising event form the student emergency fund
10. Sky's the limit....! What else might work?

Interested? Please contact ✉ [Patti Weir](#) or ✉ [James Gauld](#) – we hope to get a site up and running – and some events planned – very soon.

Hoping you are all safe and well, and looking forward to connecting with you.



This is a new initiative and we'd like your feedback and input. Please send suggestions for topics:

✉ vpacademic@uwindsor.ca



Health and Wellness

[Campus Virtual Connections](#)

LancerRecConnect – [virtual health and wellness programs @ UWindsor](#)

Employee and Family Assistance Program (EAFP)

Delivered by Morneau Shepell, an outside employee support solution provider, the EFAP offers professional counselling and information services to University employees and their eligible immediate family members.

- No referral required
- All calls are private and confidential
- No individual information shared with UWindsor

1-800-387-4765 (toll free number)

1-877-338-0275 (TTY Service).
[Morneau Shepell website](#) (if prompted to log in please enter University of Windsor)