

August 14, 2020

Zoom Student Sessions: Q&As

Dear Students,

Please find the collated list of all Q&As that have been compiled from the zoom sessions. Thank you for bringing this forward.

Question: What exactly will Fall classes look like in terms of online, virtual classrooms, tutorials, etc.? Will all classes use zoom or will it be similar to the end of Winter semester?

Answer: Fall term will be online, although some classes will have pre-recorded lectures while others will be virtual (live) eg. PBL and tutorials. A few courses will have clinical labs (1I02, 2U04, 3A04). Clinical placements in year 3 and 4 will be in-person.

Question: Will Winter term be in person classes?

Answer: The university has announced in-person in the Winter term. As such, the BScN program will do the same. If there are any changes to this, we will notify students.

Question: Will students have the option of doing the Winter term online, excluding placement of course?

Answer: It is not feasible to offer multiple formats/delivery models for each course.

Question: Is it possible that one site will be online and another will be in person?

Answer: No, as a Consortium the format of the courses will be the same across all three sites.

Question: What is the chance of clinical being cancelled during the Fall?

Answer: At this time, clinical placements are being organized for the Level 3 and 4 students in the Fall. We are hopeful we will have placements.

Question: Is there a chance that our Winter placement will be cancelled as well? What will happen if we are unable to attend the Winter and or Spring/Summer clinical placements due to a second or third wave of covid-19?

Answer: At this time, we cannot determine this. We are planning one term at a time and will re-evaluate as hospitals and other agencies re-open to learners.

Question: What will PBL look like in terms of working within the class, as well as small groups?

Answer: PBL will be virtual, meaning you will be meeting with your teacher and peers in 'real time. There will be 23-25 students in each group. We will be using Zoom.

Question: Given that nursing is hands-on (for example lab skills), how will you ensure that we are learning to our maximum potential?

Answer: Your time in learning with direct patient care will not be lost in the program; our curriculum has been slightly adjusted for the Fall term to ensure we are supportive of the

complexities of the health care system. With this adjustment, you will still receive all courses in and requirements in the program.

Question: Will there be the possibility of McMaster facilities (such as libraries) opening in the Fall semester? If so, what precautions will be put into place?

Answer: At this time, there is no plan to have facilities open in McMaster. At present, this is the plan for Mohawk and Conestoga. For updated information, continue to watch for communication from your site as updates are shared.

Question: Will we have access to the CSBL/peer tutors at McMaster?

Answer: No, at this time there will be no peer tutors at the McMaster site. All labs at the 3 sites will be open for the required number of labs.

Question: How do we go about MSAF (if needed) with everything being online?

Answer: The MSAF process and criteria are unchanged from the spring/summer term. Information for submitting an MSAF can be found on the nursing website at the following link: <https://nursing.mcmaster.ca/current/advising>

Question: Can you please comment on the Pass/Fail process implemented in the Winter term, and how this may affect our future semesters?

Answer: For questions specific to the Pass/NC option that was available in the Winter 2020 term, please direct all questions to the Academic Advisors. This grade policy will not be in effect this upcoming year.

Question: When will the Pass/Fail implementation be reflected on “My Advisement Report” in Mosaic and allow us to (officially, on Mosaic) meet the prerequisites for certain courses?

Answer: The pass/NC should be on your advisement report in a short time. If you have concerns or questions, please connect with the academic advisor for your site.

Question: Is there a maximum number of electives we’re allowed to complete in level two?

Answer: All information about your program plan can be found on the <https://nursing.mcmaster.ca/> website. This includes the number of electives you take.

Question: What do I do if I am unable to enrol or make changes with my courses?

Answer: If you require assistance with your enrolment, please contact Mediha Kadic, Program Coordinator for assistance at kadic@mcmaster.ca.

Question: Will there be additional financial supports for students this year?

Answer: All questions regarding financial support should be directed to the Student Accounts and Financing at the respective sites. This includes OSAP and any other additional supports that may be in place or accessible.

Question: How will OSAP students handle an extra term (Spring/Summer) for 2P03?

Answer: All questions regarding OSAP and funding should be directed to the student financial affairs at your site. McMaster – student.accounts.mcmaster.ca. We will also review this more fully in the next few months.

Question: The tuition for this school year is still the same as the previous semester, I was just wondering if any considerations were put in place given that we would not be having in-person classes and library services.

Answer: Tuition is unchanged across the university. Online delivery does not change the rigor of the course, therefore there is no tuition change. For the ancillary fees which are the additional fees paid for services, the university is reviewing this at this time and students will be notified if there are any changes.

Question: With the MSU-HSR pass discount being disputed at the current time, how do you plan on supporting students in travelling to placement if they do not reach an agreement?

Answer: As per the BScN Program, it is the student's responsibility to arrange travel for placements.

Question: How do I order my nursing kit (Level 2/Level 3/Accelerated)?

Answer: Students will receive information via Avenue to Learn regarding their kits before the courses begin.

Question: Where can I get help with understanding the BScN book list?

Answer: Please contact the Curriculum Assistant for your level for more information or help. You can find their contact information on <https://nursing.mcmaster.ca/> or in Avenue to Learn.

Question: How will textbooks will be obtained during this time?

Answer: Students will order their textbooks online through the bookstore.

Question: What do we do with our NARS documents? Who do we contact for questions?

Answer: The NARS for each site are submitted online. Refer questions to each site.

McMaster - documents are uploaded to the A2L course shell;

<https://nursing.mcmaster.ca/current/non-academic-requirements>

Mohawk - <https://www.mohawkcollege.ca/preplacement-services>

Conestoga - <https://www.conestogac.on.ca/current-students/preplacementfaq.jsp>

Question: Is there a final due date for the WIL/NARs documents that are required for placement? Have the deadlines changed at all due to the current situation?

Answer: NARS are managed at each site separately; please refer to sites for details.

McMaster - Avenue to Learn NARs course shells or <https://nursing.mcmaster.ca/current/non-academic-requirements>

Mohawk - preplacementservices@mohawkcollege.ca

Conestoga - <https://www.conestogac.on.ca/current-students/preplacementfaq.jsp>

Question: For those who were supposed to have placements through this Summer semester, we were required to have NARs up to date. However, with placements cancelled our NARs will not carry through entire year to April 2021. Is there a concession being made to accommodate?

Answer: NARS are a requirement for FHS and our agencies. This would not be something the school can change. They are to be updated every year.

Question: Can we take the CPR-BLS recertification course or do we have to take the full course?

Answer: Following a full course, annual recertification is required.

Question: Is the mask fit test still required?

Answer: Yes, at this time, this is still required. Please check with your site for details. Mask Fit sessions are being scheduled to ensure readiness to attend practice in the Fall. There will be updated information about the need for mask fit testing.

Question: Do I need to get a second mask fit test if my previous test covers me to April?

Answer: If your mask fit test covers you to the end of the school year in April, you will not need to get retested until it expires.

Question: How do I find answers to my questions regarding placements?

Answer: Please connect with the appropriate site for placement information.

McMaster: Bscnplac@mcmaster.ca

Conestoga: Placement_Office@conestogac.on.ca

Mohawk: Diana.powell@mohawkcollege.ca

Question: What will placement locations look like all the sites?

Answer: The Consortium works together to ensure students have placements that are convenient to the site location. For McMaster/Mohawk, this includes Halton, Peel, Brant, Haldimand-Norfolk, Niagara and Wellington regions. For Conestoga, this includes Kitchener-Waterloo and surrounding areas including Wellington, Brant and Halton regions. Please refer to your specific placement office for more details.

Question: How long will clinical (2P03) last in the Spring/Summer?

Answer: It is too early to determine the exact information regarding days/times etc. for clinical in Spring/Summer 2021. The program will do everything they can to ensure an appropriate schedule. As soon as we have information, we will communicate this to the students.

Question: Is the Spring/Summer clinical course (2P03) only available in the Spring/Summer or can we add it to our Winter schedule?

Answer: This course is only offered in the Spring/Summer term. 2L03 is taken prior to 2P03.

Question: What will happen if we are unable to do our placements? Will we be able to proceed to level 3 or will we be held back if Winter or Spring/Summer placements are cancelled?

Answer: If placements are cancelled, you will not be able to move forward in the program.

Question: Is it possible to have an alternate option of attending placements twice a week rather than once a week?

Answer: The placement schedule for Spring/Summer is not yet determined.

Question: Will the Spring/Summer (2P03) be condensed or full term?

Answer: At this time, we are working one term at a time with our agencies. Once we have more information about the days/times for clinical in the Winter and Spring/Summer will communicate this to the students.

Question: How flexible would Summer placements be in terms of day and times? Or would it be similar to regular placement a set time during the week?

Answer: Summer placements for level 2 (2P03) will have set day/times during which they occur.

Question: Is there a change in Leads in level 3?

Answer: Amy Palma has transitioned to the level 1 Lead role.

Question: When will we know more information about how clinical placement will occur?

Answer: It is hoped we can communicate this about 2 weeks prior to the start of term.

Question: Since we ended the Winter 2020 semester early, are we going to have to make up for the clinical hours we missed?

Answer: Anyone who did not get hours completed has already had this addressed. There will be a need to make up some hours – this will be looked at each year of the program. Having a specific number of clinical hours per term is a requirement of our Accredited Program.

Question: Would community placement (3QQ3) in the Winter term be in person (since it is online in the Fall term)?

Answer: Community 3QQ3 will be the same delivery in both the Fall and the Winter. It will be virtual for this coming year.

Question: Is our clinical placement going to take place this Fall term or will it be pushed back? Also, will the community placement in 3QQ3 take place?

A. The plan at this time is to have the Level 3 clinical taking place in the Fall. The community placement (3QQ3) will be virtually delivered using simulation scenarios.

Question: Is Nursing 3QQ3 a one term or two term course?

Answer: Nursing 3QQ3 is a one term course. You can take it in the Fall or Winter.

Question: Would we have limited options for placement in third year or will this change due to the pandemic?

Answer: We are trying to acquire as many options as possible, but given the current situation, we may not have the variety we have seen in the past. We cannot be certain at this point but will do our best to ensure the students have the best opportunity possible.

Question: During second year placement, we had the opportunity to be placed in a hospital closer by to the area we live in, is this still an option for level 3 (Fall) assuming that placements are resuming?

Answer: Each site will do their best to have placement options for the students. We ask students to be open to the opportunities that are available as it may be more difficult right now to secure placements.

Question: Will it still be possible for students to apply for global health placements?

Answer: Unfortunately, this year we will be pausing the global health placements. Please keep posted on the global placement site for further updates. Also, take note of when travel restrictions are lifted as this will mean potential change for

Question: Will Nursing Research HTHSCI 4NR3 be offered in the Spring/Summer term of 2021?

Answer: Yes, we plan to offer this course in the Spring/Summer 2021.

Question: Do you anticipate offering a Spring/Summer option (Level 4) as in previous years so students can finish the degree at the end of 2021?

Answer: At this time, we cannot determine if this will be offered. As soon as this decision is made, students will be notified.

Question: How does the school of nursing determine level 4 placements based on the rankings through HSPnet. Are our top choices based on grades, or randomly generated?

Answer: Atypical placements have a process in place – this is available in the University undergraduate calendar in the section specific to the School of Nursing. This year choice will be taken into consideration, although it may not be possible to have a student placed in one of their choices. The health care system is in a different place this year and so we need to be flexible and adaptable.

Question: What is going to happen in regards for placements and working in long term care or retirement homes due to some people relying on working through the school year to make ends meet?

Answer: At this time, we cannot determine if students will be able to work and attend a placement. It is up to the individual agencies to manage the policy surrounding this. These are uncertain times and unfortunately, there are some potential guidelines that may be put in place for the safety of everyone.

Question: As a practicing RPN and RPN to BScN student, the restrictions on working in a health care facility while in placement is incredibly impactful on many of our finances. Who is advocating for this population of students?

Answer: The School of Nursing leadership is constantly advocating for the students with our placement partners to ensure the best possible experience.

Question: Will RPN students who may not be able to work during school d/t placement conflicts would like to know if their will be additional financial aid options?

Answer: The financial services at each site will help you with the questions regarding financial aid.

Question: RPN to BSCN students have concerns regarding working as RPN's while attending clinical placements. In the event of a second wave, will students be required to choose between their jobs and their placement? What if the RPN's are "called to work" - will we be penalized academically?

Answer: As the program is full-time, we cannot make allowances for students not completing placements. If this does come up, the students should connect with the academic advisors to discuss the circumstances.

Questions: To clarify about work again. I know it was mentioned to plan for 2 weeks isolation. Do we know the date at which placement will start (week 1 or 2)

Answer: Placements will start on Sept 8th, 2020. You should be ready to participate at this time.

Question: Are the placements that were listed on HSPnet confirmed or not? Some were removed before the deadline for submission.

Answer: Not all placements on HSPnet are confirmed at the time. In addition, there may be some placements that are cancelled or changed after posting. This is due to the agency's requirements.

Question: How will we address the racism and bullying within nursing? I believe we suggested having workshops for faculty that teach about racism issues and bullying issues within nursing like antiracism workshops.

Answer: The School of Nursing is continually meeting to address concerns of racism and bullying as well as working with the University and Faculty of Health Sciences to put programs and policies into place to assist. Our commitment has been shared openly on the School of Nursing webpage: <https://nursing.mcmaster.ca/current/fall-2020-updates>

Question: With COVID already impacting students working during the pandemic, and then additional stress of returning to school, what is the School of Nursing doing to support students academically and from a mental health standpoint as we complete our studies?

Answer: The Faculty of Health Sciences and the School of Nursing are meeting on a regular basis to discuss supports for faculty, staff and students during this difficult time. Information will be shared with the students as it is available. We are closely linked to student wellness centers. Resources have changed for the Fall so, with greater support of students. Please check at your individual site.

Question: Will there be updated guidelines/precautions for students to prevent the spread of COVID to their loved ones during clinical placement?

Answer: Guidelines for taking appropriate precautions can be found on the Public Health website. Each placement site also has guidelines for staff and learners. These should be

reviewed and followed. Finally, each student has a responsibility to be competent in applying PPE and social distancing on the units.

Question: Will students be required to get testing for COVID-19 during placements? For example, LTC homes are requiring workers to get tested every 2 weeks right now.

Answer: At this time, we are not sure what the specific requirements will be as this may change from site to site.

Question: Assuming there is a vaccination for January, will it be mandatory for us to take it since we have clinical?

Answer: As with the Influenza vaccine, once this vaccine is available it will probably be mandatory. We will keep you informed as we have more information to share.

Question: Is there a PPE protocol/policy put in place for students and will we be guaranteed adequate and appropriate PPE for the safety and protection of ourselves and our families?

Answer: Proper PPE protocols are in place for all learners. PPE for lab is available when you order your lab kits.