

## **Principles Guiding the Adjusted Academic Measures in the Face of COVID-19**

**Wellness, health and safety:** The wellbeing of our community is a top priority. Therefore, in determining when to seek or grant an adjusted academic measure, decisions will be based on the potential benefit to a student's overall health and wellbeing. Such decisions also will be guided by compassion and empathy as we navigate this global crisis, which is impacting all of us.

**Equity and fairness:** We must seek consistency in knowledge assessment for all students to ensure that learning outcomes are met irrespective of the modality of course instruction or assessment style. However, decisions about adjusting academic measures must be mindful of students' access to required resources for learning remotely, accounting for socio-economic status, disability, community context, or family care responsibilities. Equity considerations remain a priority during these difficult times.

**Academic success:** Collectively we are working to ensure students have the opportunity to succeed in their academic studies despite current challenges. Continuity of all academic programs, and supporting student learning is a key goal, including having as many students as possible complete this Winter 2020 term.

**Academic standards:** High academic standards and rigour remain core values. While this framework provides flexibility given the challenges we are facing, they are not to be interpreted as a dilution or diminution of our academic standards. The value of a course, program and degree at McGill must not be reduced through the adjustments we are making this term.

**Instructor and staff workload:** Instructors and staff are adjusting to new challenges and workloads, and requests for adjusted academic measures will create complexities that may result in increased stress and workload. This framework will include supporting staff as we move toward implementation, helping them respond to requests for academic adjustments. In this regard, the goal is to reduce "case-by-case" application of this framework, to the extent possible.

**Trust:** In this time of crisis and uncertainty, we maintain trust in our students and expect them to be honest when requesting an adjusted academic measure. We must not further burden the health care system through requests for medical documentation to support these requests, and we must strive to avoid unnecessary back-and-forth via email or other communications. We trust our students to adhere to the principles of academic Integrity and honest work. We trust our instructors, staff, and administrators to make sound, fair, and equitable decisions.

**Flexibility:** Being flexible and open to change is essential, given the rapidly-evolving circumstances all around us. We are having to adapt continually to new conditions of working, living, and learning. We recognize that new experiences with remote instruction and assessments will involve a learning curve. Being flexible and patient throughout will be of paramount importance.