



Wednesday, April 1, 2020 | 9:00PM

“Where there is a crisis, there is opportunity to innovate; don’t waste good while you’re waiting for perfect....”
Judi Ritchie

Dear ISON Community,

Here is today’s update on the Ingram School of Nursing (ISON)’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Students

COVID-19 Q & A

The ISON Faculty and Staff COVID-19 Q&A will be held on Friday, April 3rd at 9 am. As NUS and NGSAC council members are invited to attend, please send your representatives any questions or comments you would like addressed.

Changing courses from grades to satisfactory or unsatisfactory (S/U)

The PRT has revised the previously stated guidelines surrounding the Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) grading options. Given the exceptional circumstances, the S/U option will be possible for all non-P/F courses in the Undergraduate and Graduate programs, with the exception of the Doctoral program.

There is no limit to the number of winter 2020 courses for which an S/U grading option can be requested. Students are encouraged, however, to reflect on whether the S/U grading option is in fact the best choice in their specific circumstance. UO students should use the GPA calculator when considering whether to apply the S/U option for their course(s) https://gradecalc.info/ca/qc/mcgill/cumulative_gpa_calc.pl. The requirement of a term GPA of 2.5 will be waived however all UO students must have a CGPA of 2.0 to enter into clinical nursing courses (i.e., NUR1 234, 235, 230). Contact student-affairs-officer.nursing@mcgill.ca if assistance is needed with this calculator or if there are any questions. The University [adjusted academic measures](#) resource page also has more information on the S/U grading option. Please note that the University’s S/U request form is not yet accessible. The deadline to make the request for the S/U is May 22nd 2020.

The S/U appears on transcripts but is not used in the calculation of GPAs. Within ISON, the student numeric and/or letter grades will continue to be used when reviewing dossiers for promotion from QY to MSc.1, for assessing Student Standing and Promotions, for identifying students who meet the criteria for clinical support, and for other similar purposes.

Requesting extensions for course work

For some students, the request of an extension to submit assignments and course work (a temporary grade of “K” which indicates that course is incomplete), may be a better alternative than S/U. A grade of “K” provides students with four additional months to complete the course work, and if still more time is needed, a “K*” for Graduate students or “Ke” for Undergraduate students is possible and allows for an additional four-month extension. **Students who feel that they may be unable to complete their Winter course assignments by April 30th should contact their course coordinator as soon as possible to determine whether a “K” grade would be best.**

Final Exams for winter 2020

- The **final exam schedule** remains April 17th-30th. There will be no traditional in-person sit-down examinations for the Winter 2020 term.
- **Final exams and assessments at the ISON:**
 - **Students who will be assessed using a take-home-exam format:** Students will have 72 hours to complete this exam. The exam will begin at the original start time as listed in the Exam Timetable and students will be able to choose the time when they wish to complete it within the allotted time frame. *Note that time-based accommodations for exams DO NOT APPLY if your class has been given 48 hours or more to complete the assessment.*



- **Students who will be assessed using another format [e.g. quiz, short-answer, MCQ]:** The amount of time for a student to complete the exam once they have started will be the typical **3 hours**. The exam will begin at the original start time as listed in the Exam Timetable and *will be open for a period of 72 hours*. This will allow students the flexibility to determine when is the best time to do their exam. Students are encouraged to save their responses as they complete their exam in case they experience issues with the stability of their internet provider. This will ensure that their responses are not lost.
- Concerning **OSCE's** : for courses that have OSCE-type exams, final assessment modalities are still being discussed and more details will be available next week.
- Finally, there is a useful FAQ page for [students](#)

Exceptional decisions

The Ministry of Health has empowered our clinical partners to revoke study and other leaves and to require part-time nurse employees to work additional hours to ensure that an adequate supply of nurses are available in the clinical areas to care for the current influx of COVID-19 patients. The PRT has considered how best to support our BNI and MSc(A)-NE students knowing that they may wish to continue full-time studies in order not to lose their winter semester, while simultaneously being required to work full-time in an intense clinical environment. We wish to protect the mental and physical health of all our students and to maximize the potential for them to succeed. The PRT also feels that ISON has a professional responsibility to support the health care system and our colleagues in clinical areas, and by doing so, to foster the health of Quebecers in the midst of the current pandemic. With these thoughts in mind, it was decided that weighting of course assignments and evaluations for registered nurses in the **BNI** will be allowed to differ from their non-nurse colleagues in the same course. Course coordinators will inform BNI students of “exceptional decisions” in each particular course.

As opposed to the BNI and MSc(A)-NE programs, the BScN and MSc(A)-DE programs must meet accreditation standards and licensing requirements since these are Entry-to-Practice programs. In Entry-to-Practice programs, ISON is tasked with ensuring that those students who are not yet licensed nurses have been comprehensively and thoroughly assessed to ensure safe and competent professional nursing practice. For this reason, the PRT has decided that changes in course work loads or reweighting of assignments for **BScN and MSc(A)-DE** students will not be done.

Regarding licensed nurses in the **MSc(A)-NE and NP programs, all MSc1 & MSc2 courses** have already been extensively reviewed and assignments have already been significantly reduced. Any further modifications could jeopardize the integrity of these courses and established standards therefore no further changes in workload or reweighting of assignments will be made.

Regarding **NP-specific courses** (i.e., ‘reasoning’ and ‘assessment’ courses), which run over shorter periods of time throughout the spring, will be analysed for each concentration. Further information will be presented in the coming days.

Student Aid

COVID-19 has created an unexpected and unplanned need for remote access to participation in learning, from equipment to internet service. It may also have resulted in immediate financial concerns relating to travel or living expenses. Students needing financial help due to COVID-19 should go to <https://www.mcgill.ca/studentaid/> and complete the application process. This is open to Bachelors, Masters, and PhD students.

Clinical placements

New information from the Ministry of Health has been sent to our hospital partners with regards to clinical placements. The School is currently reviewing this information and is in discussions on how it may impact our students. Once more clarifying details are available, the PRT will be in a position to communicate updates.

Healthcare Worker Support Initiative

A **Healthcare Worker Support** initiative has been implemented in light of the hard work by those at the frontlines of COVID-19. This initiative grants the opportunity for students in McGill University healthcare programs to volunteer and offer support in child care, pet care, and grocery, pharmacy, and general errands. For more information on how to show solidarity with the healthcare community, please consult the following [form](#).



Volunteer opportunity with CODIM

The Director of Nursing (Mme. Lucie Tremblay) for the CIUSSS Centre-Ouest de l'île de Montréal (CODIM) has requested volunteers from among ISON students to participate in a **COVID-19 Testing Drive-Thru Initiative**. The CIUSSS CODIM has the mandate to put in place a drive-thru that would test 500 people per day for COVID 19. This drive-thru would be set up in the parking lot of Cavendish Mall beginning as early as March 25th and would be open from 08h00-20h00, seven days per week. It would be staffed by 6 clerical staff and 4 nurses using the following process:

1. Patients email their completed form to a unit agent, who gives them an appointment at the drive-thru for testing.
2. Once arrived at the drive-thru in their car, the patient would be “interviewed” by the clerical staff to validate their identity and coordinates.
3. Following this validation, the patient would see the nurse who would do the nasal swab. This nurse is wearing PPE. She places the specimen in a bag.
4. A second nurse (clean) would then accept this specimen into a clean bag (double bagging procedure) and is sent to the lab for testing.
5. Students would be assisting the nurse on the “clean” side. The support could include re-stocking, or other needs that do not include direct involvement with patients.

Any ISON student interested in volunteering their time to this initiative should contact Nadia Susel: nsusel@igh.mcgill.ca to make their interest known and discuss their availability.

Faculty & Staff

Equipment borrowed from ISON

As requested by the FoM building director as well as MedIT, all Schools are asked to keep track of any material that has been borrowed. Kindly fill out this [form](#) to help us keep track of this information for ISON. Please update this [form](#) anytime you remove equipment from ISON.

Media Requests

With the consistent news coverage on COVID-19, there has been an increase in media requests of ISON members. The inquiries range from questions about our School to our role in the pandemic. **Prior to responding to a media request, please forward the request to ISON's [Communications Officer](#).** She will assist you in preparing your responses.

Research Ethics Board Office

McGill's Research Ethics Board (REB) Office has released an [update](#) with procedures for researchers during COVID-19 outbreak for research falling under the purview of REBs 1,2,3,4.

Grading Resource - Crowdmark

Through TLS, ISON faculty have access to [Crowdmark](#), a software that allows for collaborative online grading of digital exams. This software supports multiple faculty correcting different questions and has analytics so that instructors can see student performance distribution on each question. For more information, please visit the [TLS website](#).

Deadline for the submission of final grades

The deadline for the submission of final grades has been extended by the University to May 15th, 2020. Although this option is available to ISON, recall that (1) courses within ISON were not forced to pause during the 2-week hiatus that was applied to other University units and (2) ISON has Summer courses, which begin the first week of May. For these reasons, please try to submit all final grades by April 30th, 2020.

COVID-19 Q & A

A reminder that our next ISON Faculty and Staff COVID-19 Q&A will be held on Friday, April 3rd at 9 am. Please come prepared with questions: <https://mcgill.zoom.us/j/970017880> (Meeting ID: 970 017 880; Dial in: 438 809 7799)



Healthcare Worker Support

A *Healthcare Worker Support* initiative has been implemented in light of the hard work by those at the frontlines of COVID-19. This initiative grants the opportunity for students in McGill University healthcare programs to volunteer and offer support in child care, grocery and pharmacy errands, pet care, and general errands. ISON faculty members who may be interested in utilizing this resource - please feel free to contact president.nus@mail.mcgill.ca for more details, or reach out to the student initiative coordinators zoe.oneill@mail.mcgill.ca, laura.pinkham@mail.mcgill.ca, and annexuanlan.nguyen@mail.mcgill.ca.

TechCom Drop-in Hours

A reminder that the TechCom drop-in hours are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 14-16h. The Zoom link is: <https://mcgill.zoom.us/j/891822277>. For more resources, please visit the ISON TechCom Micro [site](#).

ISON Faculty and Staff Social Zoom - 8-10pm (daily)

A reminder that the ISON Faculty and Staff Social Zoom meeting takes place every evening from 8pm-10pm. Please join for an opportunity to connect and “hangout” with your colleagues remotely: <https://zoom.us/j/970525371> (Meeting ID: 970 525 371).

Support Services

Should any student need support, please consult any of the resources below.

- Tracom (24/7). Qualified crisis intervention workers are available to take your call if you have feelings of confusion, anxiety, distress, and suicidal ideas. Tel.: 514-483-3033
- Drug and alcohol help (24/7). Speak with a trained counsellor for support. Toll-free in Quebec: 1-800-265-2626. Tel: 514-527-2626
- Suicide Action Montreal (24/7). They offer support services, crisis workers, and monitor for people who are at risk of suicide. Toll-free in Quebec: (1-866-APPELLE) 1-866-277-3553. Tel.: 514-723-4000

During this very challenging time, The WELL Office will remain open, however working remotely until March 30. The ISON Wellness Consultants will be holding virtual counselling appointments which can be booked online: www.mcgill.ca/thewelloffice/our-services/spot-scsd-ison/wellness-support/counselling-appointments.

Should any staff or faculty need support, please consult the McGill website, the Health Canada website, and the Employee assistance program is available 24/7.

Health is a Priority

The Quebec government asked that all individuals continue to practice social distancing, work remotely, and stay up-to-date with the measures taken to contain the spread. Regular updates from the Quebec government on COVID-19 can be found at: www.quebec.ca/en/health/health-issues/a-z/2019-coronavirus/#c46904

If you are symptomatic, the number to call is 1-877-644-4545

Should you have any queries, all questions can be directed to: directoradmin.nursing@mcgill.ca

Dr. Anita Gagnon

On behalf of the ISON Pandemic Response Team