



Monday, April 20, 2020 | 8:00PM

*"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,

Today's message will be the last update from the ISoN PRT. Over the past few weeks, the PRT have been working diligently to respond to the immediate needs of the School given the unprecedented circumstances associated with COVID-19. Starting Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, ISoN will return to its regular structure of committees and standard processes for input, decision-making and communication. Please review the important information related to our students, faculty, staff and clinical partners at the end of this email. All PRT updates are available on the [ISoN Covid-19 webpage](#).

## Students

### *Summer Courses - Update*

Courses offered in the ISoN Summer session focus on enhancing clinical skills, assessment capabilities, clinical reasoning, and integration into the clinical milieu. To meet these professional nursing practice objectives, both laboratory and clinical courses are offered. The PRT has been examining the potential for offering these courses this year in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The important role of nurses in the health care system has been highlighted in the media and the need for ISoN to educate excellent nurses has never been greater. The issues that the PRT had to consider in coming to its decisions included: the Ministry of Education (MEES)'s prohibition on holding classes on campus (in line with the Quebec government's requirement for social distancing); the Ministry of Health and Social Services (MSSS)'s suggestion that all schools and faculties of nursing determine ways to maximize the likelihood that students can progress through their programs to graduation since society urgently needs them during this pandemic; our accrediting (CASN; OIIQ) and licensing (OIIQ) bodies' requirement that educational standards are maintained; our clinical partners' capacity to accept students; and ISoN's commitment to offer excellent academic programs.

In addition to these, several variables were considered by the PRT - student and faculty summer plans for childcare, work and vacation, among others. ***One variable was primordial - the safety of students.*** Each course was discussed separately with the Course Coordinators and the Directors and Assistant Directors of the relevant programs, and feedback from some students was solicited.

The resulting decisions are as follows:

### BScN CLASS OF 2023 - *Update*

- **CHEM 212** (4 cr) – this course is ***cancelled*** for Summer 2020.
- **CHEM 211** (3 cr) – this course must be taken to replace CHEM 212 (it is equivalent to it minus the lab component). Students will be required to complete the lab component once it is available. ISoN will discuss with the department of Chemistry to identify where this 1-credit lab course will fit best in our students' schedules. Updates will be provided by the NSAO.

### BScN CLASS OF 2022

- **NUR1 331** – this course is ***cancelled*** for Summer 2020 and has been moved to Fall 2020.
- **NUR1 335** – this course is ***cancelled*** for Summer 2020 and has been moved to Fall 2020.
- **PSYC 204 or EDPE 375 statistics (or equivalent)** (3 cr) – in lieu of NUR1 331 and NUR1 335, students are required to take a statistics course (delivered remotely) in Summer 2020 (rather than in Winter 2021). The



rationale for this change is so that students will be available to take NUR1 332 and NUR1 336 in Winter 2021 (see below)

- o Equivalent courses offered at McGill include: MATH 203, EMA 10, BIOL 373, ECON 227D1, D2, ECON 257D1/D2, EPSC 215, GEOG 202, MGCR 271, SOCI 350
- o McGill's Course Equivalency System to help identify equivalent courses in other universities can be found here: <https://mcgill.ca/transferecredit/course-equivalency>.
- o See the Inter-University Transfer home page for details on transferring credits: <https://mcgill.ca/transferecredit/iut>
- o Students who have already received transfer credits for a statistics course can use this opportunity to take an elective if they so choose but they are not required to do so.
- **NUR1 332** – this course is moved from Fall 2020 to Winter 2021
- **NUR1 336** - this course is moved from Fall 2020 to Winter 2021
- **NUR1 333** and **NUR1 431** – these courses will BOTH be required in Summer 2021 and the Summer session will exceptionally end on June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021

#### BScN CLASS OF 2021

- **NUR1 333** – this course will be offered *remotely* from May 19<sup>th</sup> - June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020
- **NUR1 431** – this course will be offered *remotely* from May 19<sup>th</sup> - June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020

#### BNI CLASS OF 2021

- **NUR1 434** – This course will be divided into 2 sections. Section 1 includes students who are *currently working as licensed nurses (RN) or CPNP* or who *have been hired* for these positions and will start their employment this summer. Section 2 includes students who are *not currently working as a RN or a CPNP* and who are *not starting a job* in one of these positions this summer.
  - o Students in Section 1 will be given **recognition for components of what is being learned during their worked hours ('reconnaissance des acquis')** which meet course requirements. The procedure by which recognition of prior learning will be implemented is currently being discussed and will be shared by the Course Coordinator with students once finalized.
  - Students in Section 2 will take this course in two parts. *Part 1 of 2* - in preparation for clinical placement, **learning modules will be offered from May 19<sup>th</sup>; students will have until July 31<sup>st</sup> 2020** to complete them. *Part 2 of 2* - **clinical hours will be added to the Fall 2020** schedule to meet the course requirements. Challenges are expected in identifying clinical sites. For this reason, all students are encouraged to seek employment as RNs or CPNPs so that the '**reconnaissance des acquis**' mechanism (described above) can be applied in lieu of identifying clinical placement sites in the Fall.
  - The details on the different sections of this course are being developed and will be shared directly by the Course Coordinator with the students involved. All registration adjustments will be made by the NSAO.

#### MSc(A) – DE CLASS OF 2022

- **NUR2 512 Part 1 of 2** - remote learning modules will be offered in preparation for clinical placement from June 1<sup>st</sup>; students have until July 19<sup>th</sup> 2020 to complete them.
- **NUR2 512 Part 2 of 2** – clinical placements will be assigned for days and/or evenings during weekdays and/or weekends for a total of 15, 8-hour shifts from July 27 to August 14<sup>th</sup> 2020, inclusive.
- **NUR2 519** – students are expected to be full-time in Montreal July 20<sup>th</sup> -24<sup>th</sup>, 2020 in the teaching labs (if they are open) or working remotely in real-time with faculty to ensure their competencies in clinical skills are acceptable prior to the beginning of the clinical course.
- **NUR2 521** Wound Care 1 (1.5 credits): this course will be offered via remote learning on My Courses. The course will be available from May 4<sup>th</sup> and is to be completed by July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020.



## MSc(A) – DE CLASS OF 2021

- **NUR2 616 Part 1 of 3** - in preparation for clinical placement, remote learning modules will be offered from June 1<sup>st</sup> to be completed by July 19<sup>th</sup> 2020
- **NUR2 616 Part 2 of 3** – students are expected to be in Montreal all day on July 24<sup>th</sup> 2020 in the teaching labs (if they are open) or working remotely in real-time with faculty.
- **NUR2 616 Part 3 of 3** – clinical placements will be assigned for days and/or evenings during weekdays and/or weekends for a total of 15, 8-hour shifts from July 27 to August 14<sup>th</sup> 2020, inclusive.

## NP-Specific Courses - *Update*

- **NP Reasoning Courses (NUR2 675, NUR2 685, NUR2 695, NUR2 696)** - Concentration Directors have made adjustments to each of these courses in order to be able to meet the course objectives within the current constraints. Students are encouraged to discuss any concerns regarding their ability to meet course objectives within the designated timeframe with their respective Nurse Director.
- **NP Assessment Courses (NUR2 676, NUR2 686, NUR2 664)** - Theoretical content in these courses will be delivered remotely. Concentration Directors are working on building this content. The Ingram Operations Committee (IOC) and NP Program Faculty are examining what elements of these courses, if any, can take place 'live' (e.g. in hospital or in simulation labs). Any course elements that cannot be accomplished within the current context will be carried forward to a later time or modified to ensure that all objectives/competencies are met. Please stay tuned for information as it becomes available.
- **NP Summer Stages (NUR2 651, NUR2 653, NUR2 655)** - The 'NP Clinical Placement Task Force' (comprised of NP Faculty, Students and the Clinical Partnerships Office) are working in close collaboration with the IOC & our clinical partners. We understand the challenges associated with the clinical environment and are aware of some of the specific constraints experienced by students. Our primary concern is to ensure that students are safe and that the learning environment permits the attainment of all course objectives. We will communicate new information to you regularly. Please continue to discuss concerns with your student representative and Nurse Directors so that these can be reflected in our discussions.

In the coming days course changes will be reflected in Minerva and registration instructions will be provided by the Nursing Student Affairs Officer.

## *Call to support local CHSLDs - ISO N response - Update*

Please refer to the email that was sent on Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup> from your Student Affairs Officer. The communication can be found on the [ISO N COVID-19 webpage](#).

## *Graduating BScN and Direct Entry Students*

The ISO N is actively working with the OIIQ to ensure that no delays occur between the time of degree completion and the start of your employment as a *Candidate for the profession of nursing (CPN)*. The OIIQ will inform leadership shortly with the documentation they will be requiring prior to issuing graduating students with the required *Attestation of practice as a candidate for the profession of nursing*. The Nursing Student Affairs Office will update all graduating students as soon as we have been informed. If you have successfully completed your course of study, and have been offered a position as a CPN by a Quebec Health Care Institution, it is recommended that you continue with this plan as the temporary permit offered by the OIIQ, under the “État d’urgence sanitaire” is a temporary permit that does not lead to CPN employment.



## *Other undergraduate or Direct-Entry Students*

Other undergraduate or Direct-Entry Students may apply for a temporary permit offered by the OIIQ under the “État d’urgence sanitaire” if they meet the requirements. Please refer to the [OIIQ webpage](#) to verify your eligibility. All eligible students may submit their name and contact information to the [Student Affairs Officer](#).

## *Changing winter courses from grades to satisfactory or unsatisfactory (S/U) - Update*

Within the ISON, the S/U option is possible for all non-P/F courses in the Undergraduate and Graduate programs, with the exception of the Doctoral program.

Although there is no limit to the number of winter 2020 courses for which an S/U grading option can be requested, students are encouraged to reflect on whether the S/U grading option is in fact the best choice in their specific circumstance. Students are encouraged to review the [ISON-Specific Considerations](#) before making a decision. The University’s [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 now accessible. The deadline to make the request for the S/U is May 22<sup>nd</sup> 2020.

## *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 30<sup>th</sup> 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:**
  - o **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.*
  - o **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.
  - o Concerning **OSCE's** : for courses that have OSCE-type exams, final assessment will be communicated by the respective course coordinator.
  - o Finally, there is a useful FAQ page for [students](#)



## *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](#).

## *Student Social Zoom*

To promote some fun and engagement during these stressful times, the NUS and NGSa would love to organize social Zoom meetings for respective classes. Please contact your class representatives if you're interested in participating, and they will schedule accordingly!

## **Faculty & Staff**

### *Prime Minister's call for volunteers to support the CHSLD crisis*

ISoN is awaiting guidelines from the University/Faculty of Medicine in order to be able to inform our members.

### *ISoN Faculty and Staff Zoom Coffee Break- 14:30 to 15:30 (daily) – Update*

New Time, Same Virtual Space. Please join for an opportunity to connect and “hangout” with your colleagues remotely: <https://mcgill.zoom.us/j/94802661991>, Meeting ID: 948 0266 1991.

## *Sabbatical Leaves*

Those who were intending to begin a sabbatical later this calendar year may be contemplating the possibility of a deferral, especially those who had intended to travel abroad as part of their sabbatical plans. The Provost's Office has decided to accept, at any point **between now and August 3rd 2020**, any faculty member's request to defer a sabbatic leave scheduled to begin in 2020. The request must first be endorsed by the ISoN Associate Dean and by Dean Eidelman. Note that the period of deferral will not be counted as credited service toward a subsequent sabbatic leave.

## *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.

## *Deadline for the submission of final grades*

The deadline for the submission of final grades has been extended by the University to May 15<sup>th</sup>, 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 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020.**



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## **ISoN Students, faculty, staff and clinical partners - Update**

### *Nursing Stories*

In regards to communications, there have been many stories of nurses and their endless work during this global pandemic. Please continue to send all current nursing stories of strengths to our [Communications Officer](#) so they can be included in future e-blasts.

### *Support Services*

Any **students** needing support or feeling isolated can 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 further notice. 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](http://www.mcgill.ca/thewelloffice/our-services/spot-scsd-ison/wellness-support/counselling-appointments).

Any **staff or faculty** in need of support or feeling isolated, should 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](http://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.

### *Remembering those impacted by COVID-19*

On behalf of the Ingram School of Nursing, we would like to express our deepest condolences to those of you in our community who are caring for family, who are working on the frontlines or who have lost of a loved one during this difficult time. We are wishing you strength for today, and hope for tomorrow.

Regards,  
ISoN Pandemic Response Team