



Tuesday, July 14th, 2020

Dear Students,

I would like to express my gratitude to all returning and incoming students who participated in the (virtual) Ingram School of Nursing (ISoN) Town Hall Q & A, on Friday, May 29th. The purpose of the Town Hall was to discuss ISoN course delivery during the fall 2020 semester. Given the COVID pandemic, there are many reasons for feelings of uncertainty and this is why I wanted the opportunity to address the concerns and questions of ISoN students.

ISoN will continue to deliver all scheduled courses and provide teaching excellence from dedicated and knowledgeable faculty. **For the upcoming fall 2020 semester, most courses will be offered remotely and asynchronously** (i.e.: students will be able to access the course material at a time that best suits their needs), **with the exception of clinical courses, lab courses, and Nurse Practitioner (NP) Exams, which will be offered on-site in Montreal.**

The following pages outline the answers to all questions sent prior to, and during the virtual town hall. Should you choose not to read the entire document, it is important that you review the following **Essential Information**. **Please note that some of the information has been updated since the Town Hall on May 29th.** Should you have any questions, please contact your [Student Affairs Officer](#).

Essential Information

- *A new format for clinical courses will likely be in place in the Fall - clinical placements in consecutive 'blocks' of weeks rather than spread out in days across the entire semester. These 'blocks' could entail assignments to a mixture of day and evening shifts, as well as weekend placements. Other ISoN courses are being organized to accommodate these blocks. For this reason, the Minerva registration you see is not a true reflection of your actual Fall schedule. This should be taken into account when considering plans for work and extra-curricular activities.*
- *As of July 8, 2020, the Canadian government continues to require that all international visitors self-isolate for 2 weeks upon arrival in Canada. Verification of changes to these requirements should be made prior to travelling. Updates may be found at [McGill's International Student Services](#) website.*
- *All students should consider arriving in Montreal two weeks prior to the start of the semester in case there are sudden changes in Public Health guidelines that affect access to campus buildings or clinical sites.*
- *Students are expected to remain in Montreal for the duration of the fall semester.*
- *Public Health guidelines and recommendations will be strictly applied and respected during all lab courses. Students will be required to purchase either a re-usable face shield or protective glasses. Please review examples of acceptable protective eye-wear: [example 1](#), [example 2](#).*

- *Students will only be assigned to clinical sites for which adequate personal protective equipment (PPE) is available.*

We commit to keeping our students informed of all updates and changes.

Wishing each of you a safe and enjoyable summer,



Anita J. Gagnon, RN, MPH, PhD
Associate Dean, Faculty of Medicine; Director, Ingram School of Nursing

Physical Presence and Campus Life

Q: Would there be adequate study space at ISON?

A: Study space will not be available within ISON as the campus will only be accessible to ISON students during their lab courses or NP exams.

Q: Will the McGill bookstore be open? What about the Library?

A: The McGill bookstore is not open at this time, however, their website details how items can be delivered: <https://lejames.ca/textbooks>. All branches of the McGill Library are closed until further notice. Access to e-resources and virtual services continue. For more information, please visit: <https://www.mcgill.ca/library/covid-19-latest>

Community Courses

Q: Given that we are still uncertain when the second wave of Covid-19 will hit and working nursing students will have to put in mandatory full-time hours, is there a plan to support us if these working hours conflict with the community hours?

A: The Community Health Nursing course is tentatively being planned to use a block format in community settings. Students would be expected to complete up to 16 days in a 4-week period. Students will be informed as soon as possible which block they will be assigned to in order to arrange their schedule. This is a tentative plan, not yet confirmed.



Q: How many hours need to be completed in the community portion?

A: The community stage is normally 16 full days of work, equivalent to three credits. Virtual simulations and other activities may be scheduled to decrease the number of days in clinical settings (to allow for some additional flexibility).

Ambassador Program

Q: Can you update us about the Ambassador Program?

A: Unfortunately, the ambassador program is canceled for the 2020-21 academic year.

Q: Are there any other options for the student who cannot go abroad?

A: We are not looking at an alternative plan at this point.

Q: Considering the cancellation of the ambassador program, will there be ways for students to submit more specific requests of “local” sites where they would like to do their clinical consolidation course?

A: According to our Clinical Placement policy, the clinical consolidation course is one course for which students can express their preferences. When the Clinical Partnerships Office starts preparing for NUR 530 (clinical consolidation), students will be asked to provide their three priorities.

Modes of Teaching

Q: May the teaching style be changed in mid-stream?

A: No. The University has clarified that the entire fall semester will be offered remotely (with the exception of lab and clinical courses).

Q: Will any of the online course delivery in the fall include live lectures that are recorded to allow some live interaction between course instructors and students?

A: There will be variation across the courses offered in the School. The plans for each course will be made known to you at the beginning of each course.

Q: What kind of computer programs will we be working with as we learn remotely?

A: Students do not require any special computer programs. We are using Zoom, MyCourses and Microsoft Teams. These platforms are offered and supported by the University (no need to purchase them) and they can be accessed via the Internet.

A: NUR 617 is in the first semester (in fall) and the course does not have any clinical component.

Q: Will McGill be offering CPR (re)certification? Will a suicide prevention course (required for the clinical) be online by McGill, or is that found somewhere else?

A: CPR (re)certification must be completed before the start of your clinical courses. All safeTALK training originally scheduled for students to complete in fall 2020 has been postponed to the winter 2021 semester.

Q: What would happen if we became infected with COVID-19 during our clinical placements? Will it affect our progression through the program because of the two-week isolation period? Would we need to defer the year? Also, will the necessary PPE be provided to ensure our safety in clinical settings?

A: There is now adequate PPE available in all clinical areas; no students will be assigned to areas with inadequate PPE. If a student does become COVID-19 positive, they would be required to self-isolate for 2 weeks. The effect of this on the student's progression in their studies would depend on when (in terms of the academic program) the self-isolation occurred. ISoN will do its best to identify alternatives for completion of the 2 weeks missed rather than requiring a deferral, although it remains possible.

Bachelor of Science (Nursing) (BScN)

Q: How does ISoN plan to provide and continue the traditional U3 BScN experience in light of COVID-19 (for example flu vaccination)?

A: For U3 in fall, there is an ethics course that will be offered remotely. BScN students take three electives in the fall, which will unfold as usual but remotely. Regarding NUR1 432, which is the community project, more information will be provided in the coming weeks.

Bachelor of Nursing (Integrated) (BNI)

Q: Does the BNI part-time schedule involve any lab or clinical aspects for the fall semester?

A: It depends on your cohort year (U2 or U3). If this is your first year part-time in the program, all your classes will be remote and you will not have any lab or clinical courses until your second year.

Q: Will the newly admitted full-time BNI students have their classes online (except for the labs), and can they be completed at any time? Meaning that could I accommodate my work schedule to it and work more often if needed?

A: Yes, you can accommodate your work schedule except for lab courses, which will need to be completed synchronously and in person; every other course will be offered remotely with, perhaps, some synchronous sessions to answer students' questions.

Q: Is clinical for the BNI program in the summer or in the fall?

A: If you are a newly admitted full-time student in the BNI program, clinical starts in the summer of your first year. If you are part-time, your clinical starts in the summer of the second year.

Direct Entry (DE)

Q: Will the NUR2 512 Summer DE clinical in August (Med-Surg) still be in person or virtual?

A: Yes, the NUR2 512 will be completed in the clinical sites.

Q: When do the clinical components for the QY of the DE Masters begin within the fall term? As an out-of-province student who will have to self-isolate, should I be arriving two weeks before the start date of the term, or do the placements begin later in the term?

A: In the first year of QY, there are two lab courses, NUR2 517 and NUR2 534 (lab component). The clinical course in QY is scheduled to begin at the end of September.

Nurse Practitioner (NP)

Q: When should we apply for NP funding, and are there any resources available to help us fill out the document?

A: ISON is not involved in the NP funding process. The bursary program for NPs is administered through the Department of Nursing (DNSSI) in the Ministry of Health. If there are any questions, students can ask them directly.

Q: Will the 2nd year NP classes be asynchronous as well, as they aren't exactly "lecture" format? Or will they be live/need to attend online format? If so, will the currently planned schedule remain the same, or is it expected to change?

A: It is too early to answer that question precisely. Given that there are no lab or clinical courses in that semester, we may consider different plans for NP courses. More information will be provided.



Q: Are there resources that will be available to help students financially or for people who do not live in Montreal and have to attend one lab class per week in the BNI program?

A: Centrally, there are some funds available for eligible students during the pandemic. You can apply through them or email the Student Affairs Officer for more information.

Varia

Q: Would it be possible to recognize the current students who are serving/working on the front lines with a little newsletter/slideshow/post on the McGill Nursing FB page?

A: In the newsletter and E-Blast, there is currently a call for stories (Covid-19 and nursing experience). Anyone who has a story to share can send it to the [Communications Officer](#).

Q: Is there a way to have access to the courses offered for the McGill PRO (Pre-Registration Orientation) if I were to be working on those days?

A: More information will be sent to the newly admitted students from the Student Affairs Officer.

Q: What are the start and end dates of the semester?

A: The key academic dates can found [here](#). Certain dates for courses in the NP program might change; more information will be provided in that case.

Q: I saw there are some pre-clinical requirements for U1. Do I need to upload the documents that U1 need? If not, could you give me some information about how many documents I need to upload?

A: The Nursing Student Portal is the repository for all the pre-clinical requirement uploads. These documents are reviewed and assessed by several different people (Student Wellness Hub, Nursing Student Affairs and Clinical Partnership Office).

Q: The pathophysiology for nursing 1 class has only one section which is on Friday afternoons. Due to religious observances (the sabbath) I will be able to attend but I will have to leave the class early because later in the fall the sabbath starts early in the afternoon. I would like to know what I should do? and I would like to know if you have special accommodations?

A: For Pathophysiology, note that the course will be recorded so you can access the missing portion when you are no longer in a religious conflict.