



St. Stephen's College

Memo regarding Winter 2021 Semester

To: All St. Stephen's College Students and Faculty

Regarding: Course Delivery for Winter 2021 (January–April)

The Faculty Council of St. Stephen's College has made the decision that all Winter 2021 (January–April) courses at St. Stephen's College will continue via remote/online delivery. Course dates and times will remain as scheduled, though they will be delivered online in much the same format as the Spring, Summer, and Fall 2020 courses. Exceptions are in place for practicum/clinical placements (such as Counselling Practicum and CPE), where the decision to allow for on-site, in-person placements will be worked out in cooperation with the clinical site (and of course, in full compliance with all public health guidelines).

The decision to continue with online/remote delivery was made in light of a number of pressing concerns, two of the more notable being:

- a) Because in-person courses will need to have course caps relative to the size of each classroom (to allow for proper physical distancing), the Faculty Council feels it is best to keep courses online so as to allow for regular enrollment numbers. If we were to run in-person courses with smaller course caps, it would mean that some students would be delayed in completing program requirements if they do not register before the course fills up.
- b) Given that almost half of St. Stephen's students live outside the Greater Edmonton Area, it does not seem reasonable at this time to require students to travel to Edmonton to complete program requirements. This is true not only of students who live outside of Canada, but also for students who must travel interprovincially in order to study at the College. For some, such travel would be impossible; for others, such travel would be uncomfortable and perhaps financially prohibitive (given the current COVID-19 situation).

All of us at the College are aware that the decision to continue with remote/online delivery for Winter 2021 will bring mixed responses among our students and faculty. Some will no doubt feel relief at the opportunity to continue virtually, while others will feel disappointed that we cannot gather together for in-person learning. We are particularly cognizant of those students in applied programs such as our art therapy programs, where in-person studio work is an essential part of student formation. Over the past couple of months and during the coming months too, Faculty Council has and will continue to review our course and program delivery models to see how and in what ways they can be adapted in light of the pandemic. Our aim is to ensure the health and safety of our community while also delivering high quality educational experiences.

As we look toward the Spring/Summer 2021 courses, I invite all student and faculty to participate in our planning process. This November we will be sending out a survey to the entire student body and to all faculty. We will be looking for feedback regarding your experiences with online/remote delivery over the past eight months. Your input is essential to us, as it will help Faculty Council to make informed decisions regarding upcoming course offerings. Please, watch your in-boxes over the coming weeks for this survey.

Finally, I invite all students and faculty to review our website, where [all COVID-19 memos and other communications](#) can be accessed. I draw your attention specifically to the processes in place for accessing library resources during COVID-19. Library access is detailed in the [Library Access memo](#) sent to students and faculty on June 30, 2020, and additional information is also available in the [Library Services](#) section of our website.

With thanks,
Fred Tappenden,
Principal and Dean,
St. Stephen's College