

November 10, 2017

Dear Students:

I have been talking with your professors on the picket line every day since the strike began. Like you, they are frustrated and want the strike to end so you can return to class and continue your semester.

While we do not know when the strike will end, I wanted to address your most commonly asked questions, share our latest plans for completing the semester and preview what will happen in the days immediately after the strike ends.

Completing the semester will challenge us to be flexible and adaptive yet I am confident it is a challenge we will meet by working together and supporting one another in the weeks ahead.

WILL THERE STILL BE A FALL SEMESTER?

Mohawk remains committed to continuing and completing the semester. All of Ontario's other 23 colleges have made the same commitment. Helping you successfully finish your semester will be everyone's number one priority.

WHEN WILL APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING RESUME?

A communication will be sent to all apprentices outlining when courses will resume.

WHAT WILL OUR SEMESTER AND REMAINDER OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR LOOK LIKE?

To make up for lost time, the fall semester will now carry over into early January. Classes will be scheduled the week of December 18th – 22nd and the first two weeks of January. Between Saturday, December 23rd and Monday, January 1st, our college will be closed and no classes will be held and no assignments will be due.

For those students in the Mohawk/McMaster collaborative programs, these dates may not apply. Each program will communicate their unique plans once they are developed.

Once the strike is over, faculty will develop semester completion plans for each of your courses. Evening and weekend classes may be necessary in some programs.

These plans will meet all external accreditation and regulatory requirements and maintain the academic quality and integrity of your program.

WHAT IF I ALREADY HAVE PLANS FOR THE HOLIDAYS?

We recognize that students made travel, work and family plans based on the original semester schedule. We have changed that schedule because of the strike so we will arrange alternate plans for students. An easy-to-complete electronic form will be available once the strike ends for students to make requests for new exam dates. Professors and associate deans will review requests as quickly as possible.

WHAT IF I HAVE A CO-OP STARTING IN JANUARY?

We will work directly with students who are starting their co-op works term in January. Our team in Cooperative Education will be communicating directly with both students and their employers.

HOW SOON WILL I BE BACK IN THE CLASSROOM ONCE THE STRIKE ENDS?

The colleges and the faculty union will negotiate a return to work agreement. Under this agreement, your professors will return to Mohawk before you. They will likely have a day or two to work with their colleagues in reviewing and revising your course schedules for the remainder of the semester. This will include reviewing and setting new dates for assignments, projects and exams. We ask that you hold off on communicating with your professors until you are back in class so they can focus on revising their courses. Most of the questions you have will be answered by your professors on your first day back.

During the first two days after the strike ends, we will also be hosting information sessions at each campus for students and their families. These sessions will answer any questions you may have about your program as well as services and supports.

On your first day back, please use the same timetable you followed before the strike. In each of your courses, your professors will review the revised outline and due dates for assignments, projects, tests and exams. No tests or exams will be held during the first three days you are back in the classroom.

While we ask that you hold off on contacting your professors, our campuses will be open and all of our student services will be available to you, including counselling and tutoring.

WHEN WILL CONTINUING EDUCATION RESTART?

A communication will be going out to everyone who registered for continuing education classes before the strike began, outlining the completion plan. Online activities to run as scheduled. Please contact continuing education staff if you have any questions at www.mohawkcollege.ca/ce/continuing-education-contacts

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO MY OSAP?

Once the strike ends, the Province will put provisions in place and communicate changes to OSAP.

WILL I GET A REFUND ON MY TUITION?

The Province will make that decision and direct colleges.

We recognize that you are frustrated by the strike and disappointed at what has happened to your fall semester at Mohawk. We too are frustrated and believe that you and your professors should be back in the classroom. Once the strike ends, helping you successfully complete the semester will be the number priority for all faculty and staff at Mohawk.

Please continue to send questions, comments and concerns at strike@mohawkcollege.ca.

Sincerely,

Paul Armstrong
Vice President Academic