

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO CONTINUITY OF EDUCATION PLAN

Updated November 18, 2022



UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO

BACKGROUND

In the Ministry of Colleges and University (MCU)'s July 16, 2021 memo, "Fall 2021 Planning for the Postsecondary Education Sector," Deputy Minister Shelley Tapp asked all publicly assisted colleges and universities to publish Continuity of Education Plans (CEPs) by September 3, 2021. These CEPs are to include:

1. Information about protocols (i.e., health and safety) in the event of an emergency.
2. Information on continuity of education in the event of a disruption to in-person teaching and learning.
3. Links to useful resources in the event of an emergency (e.g., emergency contact information).

Institutions were encouraged to review and update CEPs in a subsequent MCU memo on July 22, 2022 "Fall 2022 Planning for the Postsecondary Education Sector."

Below you will find the plans and policies U of T has developed in response to the pandemic along with useful links and information, organized by the three CEP themes that the memo sets out.

1 | HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS

Information about health, safety and related protocols in the event of an emergency

The University of Toronto is closely monitoring the latest public health guidance as it returns to mostly in-person activities on its three campuses.

VACCINATIONS

Vaccination is the most important way that individuals can protect themselves against COVID-19 and is a key element of the University of Toronto's strategy to support a safe return to campus. The University is encouraging all members of its community to get a booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccine as soon **as they become eligible**. New appointments are added daily to the [provincial booking system](#) and [at local pharmacies](#).

Although students who are not fully vaccinated may enrol in classes with in-person components as of May 1, 2022, vaccination requirements may be reinstated with little notice, which could result in de-enrolment.

MANDATORY VACCINATIONS FOR STUDENTS LIVING IN RESIDENCES

The University will require students living in residence for the 2022-23 academic year to be vaccinated against COVID-19, including at least one booster dose. More information on this requirement can be found on the [Vice-Provost Student's website](#).

For more information about vaccinations, visit the UTogether [vaccine page](#) and [frequently asked questions](#).

COVID-19 HEATING, VENTILATION AND AIR CONDITIONING (HVAC) STRATEGY

To ensure a thorough approach to maintaining a safe indoor environment, the role of HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) systems and current maintenance practices are routinely assessed against emerging public health evidence and industry guidelines with regard to COVID-19. A group including University Utilities and Building Operations, Environmental Health and Safety, and external professional engineers with expertise in ventilation also conducted an assessment of practices in the context of the pandemic, and the recommendations of this assessment have been adopted.

For more information, answers to frequently asked questions, and information about central and classroom ventilation, please refer to [U of T's COVID-19 HVAC strategy](#).

MASKS

The University's mask requirements have been lifted as of July 1, 2022. However, the use of a [medical mask](#) in high-density indoor spaces when physical distancing is not possible is strongly encouraged. The University is a mask-friendly environment, and we ask everyone to respect each other's decisions, comfort levels, and health needs. The University will continue to monitor public health conditions to adjust our response as needed, and we will update you on any changes.

Individuals in specific circumstances, such as those who have been recently exposed to COVID-19 or to someone with symptoms, may continue to be required to wear masks in all settings, subject to changes in [provincial](#) or [federal requirements](#).

SUPPORT FOR FACULTY, STAFF AND LIBRARIANS RETURNING TO CAMPUS

The University has shifted its focus from crisis response to a safe return to increased in-person activities on campus, and encourages faculty, staff, librarians and their families who may need additional support to reach out for help. The wellbeing of the U of T community remains a top priority during this period of recovery.

GUIDELINES AND TOOLS FOR FACULTY MEMBERS, STAFF, AND LIBRARIANS INCLUDE:

- [Working Remotely](#)
- [Managing Employees](#)
- [Absences During COVID-19](#)
- [COVID-19 Policies, Guidelines, and Resources](#)
- [Wellness, Equity, and Accommodation](#)

2 | ACADEMIC CONTINUITY

Information on continuity of education in the event of a disruption to in-person teaching and learning

The University has academic and business continuity plans that are enacted as needed. Our plans focus on the need to ensure the health of our community, and the continuity of our courses and programs.

OVERARCHING GOALS:

- Ensure continuity of courses and programs
- Ensure graduating students can graduate in a timely fashion
- Ensure continuing students can progress appropriately in their degrees

OVERARCHING PRINCIPLES:

Academic Freedom

- Course instructors have primary responsibility and authority to make changes to their courses
- As we continue to work to maintain our academic programs, faculty members' academic freedom is fully respected and neither the Provost nor other administrators will require faculty members to take any action that is inconsistent with the academic freedom provisions in Article 5 of the [MOA between UTFA and the University](#)

Integrity of Academic Programs

- The University's commitment to maintaining the integrity of all academic programs is a fundamental consideration when making any change to academic courses and programs
- The integrity of programs involves both maintaining the key learning outcomes of courses within program and maintaining academic integrity under the [Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters](#)

Academic Disruption

- The declaration of an academic disruption under the [Policy on Academic Continuity](#) provides the framework that allows divisions to provide instructors and departments with a broader menu of remedies to achieve their goals in courses and programs

Marking Scheme

- Students have the right to expect transparency in how a grade is calculated
- The [University Assessment and Grading Practices Policy \(UAGPP\)](#) establishes a process for how changes to the marking scheme can be effected when instructors judge this to be necessary

Key Resources:

- [Policy on Academic Continuity](#)
- [University Assessment and Grading Practices Policy](#)

- [Supporting Course Resiliency: Best Practices for Teaching Staff](#)

3 | RESOURCES IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY

Links to emergency contact information and other useful resources in the event of an emergency.

CRISIS AND ROUTINE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

Crisis and routine emergency situations on the University of Toronto's three campuses are governed by the [Policy on Crisis and Routine Emergency Preparedness and Response](#). In addition to the Policy, internal and external policies and statutes define the University's roles and responsibilities in a crisis or routine emergency situation. University officers recognize that every crisis and routine emergency requires a response as set out in the Policy and an evolving administrative Framework.

If a University officer is uncertain about the seriousness of an incident, they are directed to contact Campus Police immediately to assist in an assessment.

Under the Policy and Framework, the Incident Manager has full decision-making authority in the implementation of this Policy.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The foremost priority of the University in responding to crisis or emergency situations is the safety of students, faculty, staff, and affected community members. The University is committed to limiting and containing the extent of damage incurred during a crisis or emergency.

The University is also responsible for restoring order and mitigating the effects of the incident as soon as practicable by ensuring that the appropriate resources are assigned to manage the situation.

Emergency preparedness entails plans and procedures that the University undertakes in anticipation of a likely emergency. The [Crisis and Emergency Preparedness site](#) provides information and guidance for students, faculty, staff, and visitors to the University in the case of an emergency.

SUPPORT LINKS

- [Safety and Support](#)
- [Community Safety Office](#)
- [Campus Safety App](#)
- [UTAlert System](#)
- Campus Police
 - [St. George Campus Safety](#)
 - [UTSC Campus Community Police](#)
 - [UTM Campus Safety](#)

OTHER POLICIES

The following is a list of University of Toronto policies that are relevant to the University's crisis and routine emergency preparedness and response.

- [Statement of Institutional Purpose](#)
- [Statement Regarding Access to Information and Protection of Privacy](#)
- [Statement on Freedom of Speech](#)
- [Policy on the Disruption of Meetings](#)
- [Statement on the Bearing of Firearms](#)
- [University of Toronto Police Policy](#)
- [Statement on Human Rights](#)
- [Statement on Prohibited Discrimination and Discriminatory Harassment](#)
- [Code of Student Conduct](#)
- [Policy with Respect to Workplace Violence](#)
- [Policy on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment](#)