

COVID-19 Update: Decision About Winter Term November 26, 2020

Dear Faculty, Students and Staff,

As you know, U of T President Meric Gertler, announced that, in the interest of student wellness, the University is delaying the start of the Winter 2021 Term for Undergraduate 1st entry programs to January 11, 2021. Graduate units have been asked to determine whether it is possible to also adopt the delayed start after considering competing priorities unique to graduate programs, including practicum placements and professional programs that operate using a modular format.

We have spoken with Division Heads and Program Directors across PHS and IHPME about the impact of a delayed start on programs and after careful consideration balancing the disruption to courses (especially modular courses) and schedules of students working in professional positions with the time and space a delayed start creates for much needed self-care right now, it has become apparent that **some divisions/programs will be able to adopt the delayed start, and others will not.**

Overall, all **IHPME** programs will start as originally planned, with the exception of the Health Services Research program, which will delay the start of the winter term from January 4 to January 11, 2021. IHPME program directors shall notify students and faculty in their programs of the winter term start dates for each program.

Overall, **PHS** programs will delay the start of the winter term to January 11, 2021, with the exception of the MHSc in Bioethics, which will start January 4, 2021, as originally planned.

Below is a table indicating which divisions and programs will start when. The DLSPH calendar will be updated to reflect these changes. The decision to delay the start of the Winter 2021 Term applies to courses and teaching only. Research and service can continue as planned.

Mentoring Record Reminder:

This is also a good time for supervisors and students to check-in with each other and revisit the mentoring record SGS sent out in the Spring (attached).

Will the Winter 2021 Term still be 12 weeks long plus reading week?

Yes, regardless of start date, the winter term will be 12 weeks long plus one week in February for reading week.

Does this impact reading week?

No, reading week will still occur week of February 15 – 19, 2021, regardless of which date term starts.

What does this mean for the end of term and graduation?

Courses starting as usual on January 4, 2021, will end as usual the week of April 9, 2021. Courses delaying their start to January 11, 2021, will end one week later, the week of April 16, 2021.

Students expecting to graduate in June 2021 should notify instructor(s) early so that their final grades can be submitted to Graduate Units when requested.

Final Grades will be due week of April 19, 2021

What if I have responsibilities in more than one division/program?

We recognize that many students and faculty have their primary appointment in one division/program and course responsibilities with other divisions/programs, whether as a student, instructor, or TA. Please coordinate your schedule to align your responsibilities with the appropriate division/program decision. For some students and faculty with ties to multiple divisions/programs, a delayed start in one aspect of work/study may not mean a delayed start in all aspects. We do hope any misalignments will result at least in a lighter workload at the start and end of the winter 2021 term.

What does this mean for course add/drop dates?

Programs starting January 11, 2021: The course add and drop dates will be delayed one week to add (January 25, 2021) and drop (March 1, 2021) a course.

What does this mean for exam week?

Programs starting January 4, 2021: Exam week will remain the same, April 5 – 9, 2021.

Programs starting January 11, 2021: Exam week will be delayed one week to April 12 – 16, 2021

What happens to my funding?

We do not anticipate any impacts on funding.

What does this mean for faculty?

Faculty members teaching in the Winter 2021 term have full academic freedom to decide what this means for their courses – please note the winter term is still 12 weeks long despite the delayed start. As always, please consider student workload, as well as your wellness and the wellness of students, as you update your courses.

If you need advice or help redesigning your courses for remote delivery, you can reach out for support to:

- Francisco Ibáñez-Carrasco, Assistant Professor of Learning Innovation. Book a meeting with Francisco [here](#).
- Obadiah George, Educational Technologist Book a meeting with Obadiah [here](#).
- Sumeet Sheoran, IHPME faculty support: Sumeet.sheoran@utoronto.ca.

What does this mean for staff?

The decision to delay the start of the Winter 2021 Term applies to courses and teaching only. All appointed administrative and research staff will return to work on January 4, 2021. That said, all appointed employees will be entitled to three wellness days as of now, to be used by Aug. 31, 2021. Our CAO, Robin Hurst, will communicate with staff on this directly as well.

Division/Program	Start 04/01/2021	End 09/04/2021	Start 11/01/2021	End 16/04/2021	Start 18/01/2021
IHPME					
Clin Epi	X	X			
HSR			X	X	
HPER – No courses					
MHI/IMHI	X	X			
MHSc					X
QIPS	X	X			
SLI			X	X	

PHS					
Bioethics	X	X			
Biostats			X	X	
CPH (all FCM and MScCH)			X	X	
Epidemiology			X	X	
Indigenous Health			X	X	
Nutrition & Dietetics			X	X	
OEH			X	X	
SBHS			X	X	

Dionne Gesink, PhD
 Associate Dean, Academic Affairs
 Professor, Epidemiology
 Dalla Lana School of Public Health
 University of Toronto