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Important information regarding 2020-2021 program delivery in response to COVID-19.

Faculty of Sustainable Design Engineering, University of Prince Edward Island

See below for answers to the following questions which provide important information regarding program delivery for the coming 2020-2021 academic year:

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Why is in-person, on-campus delivery important in the engineering program?

- Students learn to become professional engineers by doing what real engineers actually do - using their design, technical and professional skills to provide real solutions to real problems for real clients. Consistent with our learning model, this is best accomplished through hands-on, team-oriented, project-based, experiential learning in which the “learning” and the “doing” are fully integrated. Developing and applying engineering skills in such a model is greatly enhanced by in-person experiences.

How will the engineering program be delivered?

- For all ENGN courses, students will complete a portion of their learning online and also come to campus for specific required in-person activities. The distribution between online learning and required in-person activities in each course will be established by the course instructor. This means that students must be physically present on campus for some of the time in order to complete ENGN courses.
- For all non-ENGN courses, students will be able to complete all of their learning online.
- Our engineering design clinics will continue to offer students at all levels a wide range of opportunities to work on real projects for real clients.

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- Modifications to some ENGN course offerings have been made to reduce workload for students, particularly in Years 1 and 2, and to ensure that we are able to conform to physical distancing and other requirements.
- Engineering programming will be offered only in the FSDE building.

What does this mean for incoming first year engineering students?

- ENGN 1230 (Engineering Mechanics I: Statics) and ENGN 1340 (Engineering Mechanics II: Dynamics) will not be offered in the coming 2020-2021 academic year.
- Incoming students who wish to follow a 4-year program path will be able to take these two courses during the 2021 summer sessions in order to stay on this track. Any summer courses during the 2021 summer sessions will be scheduled to accommodate students who work. In all likelihood, these summer courses will also have a substantial online component allowing for more flexible participation. Depending on how the COVID situation goes over the next while, it may also be possible, for instance, that ENGN 1230 (Engineering Mechanics I: Statics) could be offered in the Winter 2021 semester so that then only ENGN 1340 (Engineering Mechanics: Dynamics) would have to be taken next summer.
- Incoming students following a 5-year program path are not affected by this change.

What does this mean for returning engineering students?

- ENGN 2130 (Statistics for Engineering Applications) and ENGN 2830 (Digital Logic Design) will not be offered in the coming 2020-2021 academic year.
- Returning second-year students who wish to remain on a 4-year program path will be able to take these two courses during the 2021 summer sessions in order to stay on this track. Any summer courses during the 2021 summer sessions will be scheduled to accommodate students who work. In all likelihood, these summer courses will also have a substantial online component allowing for more flexible participation. Depending on how the COVID situation goes over the next while, it may also be possible, for instance, that ENGN 2130 (Statistics for Engineering Applications) could be offered in the Winter 2021 semester so that then only ENGN 2830 (Digital Logic Design) would have to be taken next summer.
- Returning second-year students on a 5-year program path are not affected by this change.
- All other returning students are not affected by this change.

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What if I am unable to be physically present on campus?

- Incoming first year students can follow a modified course plan which includes only the required non-engineering courses (for example, math, chemistry, humanities electives, UPEI 1010, science/business elective) that are being offered fully online. However, given that no engineering courses would be taken in the first year, it would not be possible for students in this situation to complete the program in four years.
- Returning students, who are early in the program, may be able to follow a similar modified course plan in order to continue their studies.
- All students who are unable to be physically present on campus for the coming academic year are strongly encouraged to seek course planning advice from **Christine Greening (cgreening@upei.ca), Administrative Assistant, Student Experience.**

What measures are in place to protect me from COVID-19?

- Prior to the start of the fall semester, all students will be required to complete online health and safety training in relation to COVID-19.
- Engineering programming will be offered only in the FSDE building; students will not be required to move from building-to-building on campus.
- In-person, on-campus activities will be scheduled to minimize the number of people in the FSDE building at any one time.
- Reduced occupancy allowances in building spaces, such as classrooms, labs and shops, will be implemented to maximize physical distancing.
- Traffic flow within the FSDE building will be managed to minimize interactions among people.
- Access to the FSDE building will be restricted to only engineering students, faculty, staff and others who require access to the building.
- Enhanced cleaning protocols will be implemented in building spaces, such as classrooms, labs and shops.

What do I need in order to access my courses online?

- Given the substantial amount of online learning that will be involved, all students must have access to dependable high-speed internet and to your own computer (preferably a Windows-based laptop with a minimum of 16 GB RAM memory), printer and scanner.

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Will there be changes to my course timetable/schedule?

- Yes, in order to deliver both online and in-person learning in response to COVID-19, it has been necessary to make changes to the course timetable, although every effort has been made to minimize the impact of these changes on you.
- Over the next few weeks, you will begin to see these changes reflected in your course plan in *myUPEI*. There is nothing that you are required to do to facilitate this although you should feel free to contact us if you have any concerns. Our course timetable has now been updated to reflect changes to our course offerings. We ask that you review your course schedule in your *myUPEI* course plan and advise us if any conflicts (two courses scheduled at the same time) exist. You will also notice that the “location” of your courses has changed to one of the following:
 - Location: Web (Web) – this indicates the course will be online only and no room will be assigned to this course.
 - Location: UPEI Main Campus (Hybrid) or (Hybrid Lab) – this indicates the course will include a combination of online and required in-person activities and a room will be assigned to this course. Note: courses listed as *Hybrid Lab* are charged a lab fee.

What can I do to help? Do you need any information from me?

- In order to better plan for the coming year, we would love to know about your current situation, your intentions for the coming year, or any concerns that you may have. For instance, do you anticipate any difficulties in being able to join us for the coming year? Are you having any challenges with your study permit? Are you unsure about the best course of action for you in order to start or continue your studies? Whatever it is, we would like to know. Please drop us a note even if it is just to confirm that you are excited to be joining us in the fall. At this time, we are asking all students to update us on your current situation as follows:
 - For students on PEI, please send us an email indicating whether or not you are in the province and able to attend in-person classes in the Fall 2020 semester.
 - For students within Canada, please send us an email indicating your current province and whether or not you plan to travel to PEI to attend in-person classes in the Fall 2020 semester.
 - For international students, please review the most current information available from UPEI's International Office (<https://www.upei.ca/international-students/incoming-international-students>). Also, please review the most current information available from the federal government on the IRCC website (<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/immigration-citizenship.html>). Prior to any travel to Prince Edward Island, you will need to complete the *Pre-Travel Approval Process for Prince Edward Island* (<https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/justice-and-public-safety/pre-travel-approval-process>). Please send us an email indicating your current country, your study permit/visa status and whether or not you plan to travel to PEI to attend in-person classes in the Fall 2020 semester.

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What if I have other questions about the program or my courses? Who can I contact?

- Rest assured that, whatever your situation, we are here to help you through these difficult and uncertain times and to ensure that you are able to start or continue your studies with us in the Faculty of Sustainable Design Engineering at UPEI.
- As always, **Christine Greening (cgreening@upei.ca)**, Administrative Assistant, Student Experience and **Wayne Peters (wpeters@upei.ca)**, Associate Dean Academic are available to answer any questions you may have and to help with your course planning. Don't hesitate to reach out to them at any time about anything.

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