

Dear CUT Academic staff

Greetings to you all! Once again, we hope that you are doing well, under the circumstances. This communique follows that of 08 May 2020, stipulating the updated academic calendar for 18 May 2020 to 31 May 2020 and 01 June 2020 to 07 August 2020. It also provided you with an update on the distribution of devices, data, and delivery of learning material. The purpose of today's communique is to share the entire revised academic calendar 2020 with you that was approved by Senex, at its meeting of 21 May 2020, for immediate implementation, and for ratification by Senate.

Principles of the revised academic calendar 2020:

Phase A: Students will learn online where possible, with materials that they have at home or that can be provided to them. During this phase students' devices/chargers/data needs will be resolved. No test and assignments with due dates, or online classes with online platforms like zoom, etc. This is to ensure that no student is left behind. During this phase, the main priority is to get all students equipped for online learning and/or learning with devices and material on USB memory sticks.

Phase B: Some students can return to campus for lab and experiential learning work, clinical training, work-integrated learning, Faculty-based learning, and tutorial and revision sessions, where needed. Returning students will continue to work as in Phase A, with an intensive delivery approach that blends some contact opportunities with the same online learning opportunities as in Phase A.

Note: Students allowed on campus during the phasing in process will be as indicated in the Social Distancing document (revised after the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology, Dr Blade Nzimande's address on 23 May 2020)

Semester 1 Final Examination: Traditional examination for semester subjects of semester 1 of 2020 will be replaced with assignments and practical/Laboratory reports as was the decision for semester tests. In exceptional cases, where students are experiencing problems with technology, written, instead of typed assignments, could be scanned and e-mailed. It is very important that the assignments/reports measure the specified outcomes, attributes, etc. as stipulated in the study and practical/laboratory guides. The process of applying for special assessments will be available to students who will be unable to take the assessment during the normal examination period due to specific disadvantage (i.e. lack of device, data, internet connectivity during the lockdown). All modules/courses offered in online mode must be subject to rigorous and transparent forms of quality assurance. Programmes must continue to demonstrate evidence of the attainment of all Graduate Attributes through the use of a systematic Quality Management System. Measures to ensure students submit their own work must be taken as far as practically possible.

Note: No academic recess for June/July and September/October 2020.

Updated academic calendar 2020:

- Online academic project continuing, and activities monitored to ensure that students participate online (no assignments, reports or tests submissions)
 - ❖ 18 May to 31 May 2020
- Online academic project continuing, including digital face-to-face classes and hand-in of assignments/reports and classes on campus if allowed by regulations (hybrid teaching approach)
 - ❖ 1 June to 07 August 2020;
- Main assessment in a form of assignments and/or reports period
 - ❖ 10 Aug 2020 to 28 Aug 2020;
- Allow one week to finalise marks and to prepare re-assessment lists
 - ❖ 31 August 2020 to 4 Sept 2020;
- Re-assessment of assignments and reports period
 - ❖ 07 Sept 2020 to 11 Sept 2020;
- Allow one week to finalise re-assessment marks
 - ❖ 12 September 2020 to 15 September 2020;
- Publication of Main and Re-Assessment results
 - ❖ 16 September 2020;
- Need at least one week for second semester registrations
 - ❖ 14 September to 18 September;
- 2nd Semester classes – Online teaching including digital classes and hand-in of assignments/reports and classes on campus if allowed by regulations
 - ❖ 21 September 2020 to 04 December 2020;
- Main assessment – On campus if allowed otherwise assignments and/or reports
 - ❖ 07 December 2020 to 23 December 2020;
- Allow one week to finalise marks and to prepare re-assessment lists
 - ❖ 04 January 2021 to 08 January 2021;
- Re-assessment on campus if allowed otherwise assignments and/or reports
 - ❖ 18 January 2021– 22 January 2021;
- Allow one week to finalise re-assessment marks
 - ❖ 25 January 2021 to 29 January 2021.
- Publication of results Main and Re-Assessment
 - ❖ 02 February 2021

Masters' (M) and Doctoral (D) students will continue to interact with their supervisors using the available digital platforms. Where feasible, M and D students are encouraged to collect qualitative and quantitative information (data) via digital platforms and other digital media.

The recommendation for this scenario is that students must return to their places of residence in Bloemfontein and Welkom latest by end of May 2020, if possible.

In conclusion, we would like to thank you for your commitment and support during this time. Your wellbeing remains a priority, and we urge you to connect with the CUT Wellness Centre or CareWays. Take care of your own health. We will continue to support you during this difficult time.

Thank you

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25 May 2020