

Teaching and Learning Fall 2020 Plan – For Current and Future Students

Updated as of July 31, 2020

BASICS *(more detailed info is included below)*

Fall 2020 classes: The teaching and learning experience at Yukon University will take place primarily online for the Fall 2020 semester. YukonU’s website is being updated to reflect program changes.

Only science/nursing labs, trades shop classes (Ayamidgut Campus) and some Continuing Studies courses (potentially all campuses) will be in-person. These classes will have extensive COVID-19 health and safety measures in place. All other classes will be held online, using a variety of strategies.

Campuses will be open with limited access: To maintain the health and safety of all our students and employees, Ayamdigut Campus access will continue to be limited through two entrances. All persons entering Ayamdigut campus must register with Safety and Security or with campus staff in communities beyond Whitehorse. Where possible, campuses will remain open for studying and student support.

Only those who are symptom-free and declare themselves to be in good health will be permitted to enter campus buildings. Physical distancing must be maintained at all times.

In-person supports are available: Some students may be anxious about changing from a face-to-face course to an online course. Our in-person student services will be focused on supporting all students with this transition. We will be providing study space as well as academic and technology support. We expect to resume basic operations at our community campuses over the next six weeks. Once we know the schedules of and needs of our community students, we will adjust campus hours to be able to provide support. The following schedule shows the date we anticipate each campus will be open for students (following health and physical distancing protocols).

| Campus | Open to Staff | Open to Students | Type of Access |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Ayamdigut | Open | August 17, 2020 | Limited |
| Carcross | August 17, 2020 | TBD | Limited |
| Carmacks | August 3, 2020 | TBD | Limited |
| Dawson | TBD | TBD | TBD |
| Faro | TBD | TBD | TBD |
| Haines Junction | July 30, 2020 | TBD | Limited |
| Mayo | August 10, 2020 | By Appointment | Limited |
| Old Crow | TBD | September 1, 2020 | Limited |
| Pelly Crossing | TBD | September 1, 2020 | Limited |
| Ross River | August 7, 2020 | TBD | Limited |
| Teslin | July 29, 2020 | July 29, 2020 | Limited |
| Watson Lake | August 9, 2020 | August 9, 2020 | Limited |
| WCC | Open | Open | Limited |

Some community campuses will support evening hour access – please check [campus webpages](#) for support available in your community.

Full spectrum of academic and personal supports remains available: Through the summer and into the fall, students can [connect with us](#) via video call, phone, text and in-person.

Access to technology: Starting Sept. 1, Ayamdigut campus will focus technology support and access to equipment in the Innovation Commons, 8:30am-9pm Mon-Thurs, 8:30am-5pm Fridays and 1-5pm on weekends. If necessary, the Kaff area will be opened to provide access to additional students, while allowing for physical distancing. Study spaces can be booked and used on an individual basis. Laptops can be borrowed from the library for up to 7 consecutive days at a time. All other campuses are developing plans to provide access and support to technology.

Food service will be limited: At Ayamdigut Campus the Kinnikinnick Kaff and Bistro will remain closed. The Campus Store will be open Mon-Fri from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. with merchandise, books, snacks and baked goods available.

Access to campuses is subject to COVID-19 response guidelines from the Yukon Chief Medical Officer of Health and may change if the Yukon situation changes.

Questions: See the [Connect2YukonU webpage](#) for multiple ways to reach us before September. We have staff available every weekday and some evenings to assist you. For program/class-specific questions, please contact your program coordinator or program area chair. Contact info is available on each [program page at YukonU.ca](#).

DETAILED INFO

Classes

In Fall 2020, most classes will be conducted via online methods, which will include a combination of virtual real-time class meetings via Zoom (synchronous/access at a specific time) and web-based via Moodle (asynchronous/access when you have time during the week).

The delivery format of each class can be found on the Yukon University website. The website schedules are currently being updated so you can see the details of your courses.

Zoom (synchronous)

Zoom enables virtual face-to-face approaches to teaching and learning. These classes take place at specific times - faculty and students gather virtually in Zoom classrooms. Every student will require an internet connection and a computer or other device. Courses, or parts of courses, using Zoom will be offered on specific days/times.

Moodle (asynchronous)

Courses may also include some web-based, asynchronous components (delivered through Moodle). Your instructor will post teaching materials and links to relevant online resources on their Moodle page that you can access at any time. Course details will be provided in the course syllabus.

Moodle portions of your courses are delivered in a way that you can set your own learning schedule within a week, rather than attend class on a specific day/time.

Device and Internet Access

It is highly recommended that all students have access to a computer or other device and Internet to do their studies. The minimum specifications for a student device are as follows:

| Requirement | Windows-based PC | Apple Mac/macOS-based PC |
|------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Operating System | Windows 10 | macOS X |
| Web Browser | Firefox, Edge or Google Chrome | Firefox, Edge or Google Chrome |
| RAM/Memory | 4 GB | 4 GB |
| Storage | 5 GB of available space | 5 GB of available space |

Some classes may require specific software or different device specifications. Please check with your program for those details.

Academic and Personal Supports

All academic and personal supports at Yukon University will be available. The Academic Support Centre, tutoring, academic advising, Library Services, Learning Assistance Centre, Testing Centre, Financial Aid, Elders on Campus, International student support, personal counselling and the student engagement coordinator can all be accessed both in-person and at a distance. See the [Connect2YukonU webpage](#) for full information on personal and academic supports.

Library Services

[YukonU Library Services](#) continues to offer online access to thousands of online resources, including articles, journals, ebooks, videos, and other electronic resources. Current students can use their Office 365 accounts to access those resources.

Physical access to the main book collection will be restricted to library staff only, but YukonU students can use the online catalogue to search for the items they need and then place a request through the catalogue. Library staff will retrieve the requested item and place it on hold for the requester, who then has 7 days to pick up the material at the Ayamdigut Campus Innovation Commons.

Distance students or students in the communities can place an online request for items from the main book collection; items will be shipped to the address indicated by the student in their request. Most items from the main collection can be checked out for 21 days, with two renewals.

Items not available from YukonU Library can be requested via interlibrary loan; however, YukonU Library does not guarantee that it can fulfill requests for physical items, as libraries across the country are in several stages of reopening and many are still not shipping materials to other institutions.

Textbooks and other physical course materials can be accessed from the reserves collection, depending on instructor's request and item availability. Borrowing periods vary per course.

Following recommendations in recent COVID-19 studies, YukonU Library will quarantine books for a period of 3 days upon return. During the quarantine time, items will be unavailable.

Students will be able to borrow laptops for an extended period of 7 days (no renewals); certain AV items (camcorders, tripods) are also available for students for a period of 7 days.

Study rooms will be available with restrictions; bookings for each room will be available to only one person at a time, and the booking will be valid for two hours (considering Innovation Commons regular hours of operation). Other study areas in the Innovation Commons will be available depending on the number of people in the space and physical distancing requirements.

Reference services (e.g., research & citation help) will be available in-person, via online chat (Askaway), phone (867 668 8870), email (library@yukonu.ca), and can also be scheduled for online sessions.

Textbooks may or may not be required for your courses. In some classes, instructors use open educational resources, free textbooks, or a mix of online resources. In other courses, you may be required to buy a textbook, available from the Campus Store, online retailers such as Amazon, or stores such as Indigo or used bookstores. Some academic publishers offer textbook rental for a lower cost than buying the book outright. The Campus Store can mail your books to you or bundle them for collection from the Welcome Centre at the main entrance.

Safety in Courses

If you are registered in a science or nursing lab, trades shop class or Continuing Studies class, please ensure you are healthy in order to attend campus and participate in the class. Any special arrangements for your lab or shop class will be communicated to you by your instructor prior to your first class. Please allow enough time to register with Safety and Security on campus before your class begins.

If you are concerned about returning to in-person on-campus courses because you or a family member have an underlying health condition, e.g., are immunocompromised, you may request special accommodation/assistance. Academic accommodations are arranged through the [Learning Assistance Centre](#).

Student Placements

Student practicum placements and other field-based learning will take place in person, where possible. Some placements are delayed to the Winter Semester. Please contact your program coordinator for information on your placement.

In all cases, students will be placed only with employers and other organizations that commit to following the applicable jurisdiction's COVID-19 health precautions.

Health and Safety Measures

Your health, safety and well-being are our top priority. We want you to feel confident that YukonU is keeping our campuses safe. We will be following all the required health and safety protocols. Listed below are some specific measures we are putting in place:

- Completion of an agreement, that reflects your commitment to following Physical Distance and Hygiene Protocols (PDHP) while in our campus facilities.
- Health self-monitoring for students and instructors throughout the term.

- Personal protective equipment or other COVID-19 health and safety measures for each circumstance.
- Training on the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), when physical distancing is not achievable due to the learning activity.
- Handwashing and hand sanitizing stations.
- Detailed document that outlines expectations, recommendations and any restrictions related to being on campus for in-person coursework.

Second Wave

Should COVID-19 surge or re-emerge in the fall/early winter, or if a positive case is confirmed on-campus, the University will consult with the Yukon Chief Medical Officer of Health on appropriate actions, for example, isolating a student who lives on campus or suspending labs/studios for a period of time and engaging in increased disinfection measures.

Winter and Spring 2021

At this time, we anticipate the Winter and Spring 2021 semesters will be the same as the Fall 2020 semester. Our approach to teaching and learning will be cautious and contingent on several factors, including the COVID-19 pandemic situation in the territory, its impact on public health guidelines, and the success of the Fall 2020 measures. Our plan is to start and finish each semester using the same delivery mode. We will make a decision about Fall 2021 early in the 2021 year.

Disclaimer:

In response to the evolving circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic:

- (i) Yukon University (YukonU) may be required to add, delete or change course or program requirements,
- (ii) academic activities (including courses, seminars, graduate supervision, labs, experiential learning, practica, fieldwork, placements, etc.), may be affected or altered, and
- (iii) co-curricular opportunities, programs and services, and the manner of delivery of courses, are all subject to change.

As well, the University may, from time to time, impose additional rules, procedures and protocols as it deems necessary or as it may be required to do by public authorities to mitigate against the risk of the spread and/or transmission of infectious disease, including COVID-19, on YukonU campuses, and students will be expected to comply with all such rules, procedures, and protocols (including any measures related to preventing or mitigating the spread of infectious disease or quarantining if a student is suspected of carrying an infectious disease).

While YukonU is committed to providing appropriate instructional and supervisory support and services to students, students are not guaranteed the same learning approaches or “university” experience, or non-academic activities and services, they would have received in the absence of this health emergency.

We thank students, faculty, and staff for their understanding and flexibility during these challenging times as we work together to maintain Yukon University standards of excellence.