

# MESSAGE FROM THE ACADEMIC DEAN

May 26, 2:15 p.m. COVID-19 update

To: Students

From: Diane Gauvin, Academic Dean

Date: May 26, 2020

Subject: Message from the Academic Dean

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Dear Students,

As the semester comes to a close, I commend you on the considerable efforts you have made to complete your courses during these extraordinary times. Despite many academic and personal difficulties, you have demonstrated a remarkable ability to adapt to the challenges imposed by the sudden transition to online learning. This situation was unexpected for everyone, and we all had much to learn.

For those of you who are graduating, congratulations! While your last months at Dawson took an unexpected twist, I hope that your time at the college has prepared you well for your future endeavours. Plans for convocation are underway and you will be contacted in coming weeks through Omnivox.

Many of you responded to the survey on your experience of online courses and provided detailed comments about the types of difficulties you have encountered and how they could be offset. Teachers, and the deans, pedagogical counsellors and many others who support teachers, are using this information to make improvements to online instruction.

As those of you who are returning to Dawson may have learned from recent news reports, the Summer and Fall 2020 semesters will be unlike any others. Owing to ongoing health concerns, and following the directives of the public health authorities, Dawson has made the decision to offer all courses and extracurricular activities online in the summer and fall. Only certain activities such as essential labs, practical work and some assessments will take place on the college's campus.

As you can imagine, the delivery of an education that will be online for an entire semester represents an enormous challenge for the College, but Dawson is committed to providing an educational experience of a rich and high quality. Teachers and non-teaching staff are working hard to prepare courses and activities that will engage, stimulate and challenge you, and maintain the level of instruction for which Dawson is known.

To participate in your classes in the summer and fall you will continue to need access to a computer and an Internet connection. You can find more details about these technical requirements by consulting

the information on the [Student Hub](#). The College is taking various measures to help students with their equipment needs and we also understand that the government will soon be announcing a plan to assist students in purchasing a computer.

Once again, I congratulate you on your dedication and perseverance during this exceptional situation. The completion of your classes this spring and the preparation for your future projects – whether they involve returning to Dawson, pursuing university studies or joining the workforce – certainly present ongoing and new challenges. Your ability to rise to these challenges will serve you well in the months and years ahead. I wish you every success in these undertakings.

Regards,



Diane Gauvin  
Academic Dean