

## Update from Dean Hepburn - Options for Final Assessment

March 21, 2020, p.m. 1:50 p.m.

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Dear Continuing Education Contract Lecturers,

First of all, I would like to thank you for your patience this past week as we consider alternative assessment approaches for Winter term courses. During these uncertain times, I recognize that further ambiguity can cause frustration. Please rest assured that your commitment to supporting our students is not unappreciated.

Below are some final assessment options for your Winter term courses.

### **Virtual Proctoring:**

Ryerson continues to test virtual proctoring systems that may be used to administer final exams. Please note that most of these systems require a trained human invigilator to observe the writing of the exam and identify behaviours that may indicate cheating. Nonetheless, these systems are not 100% foolproof against cheating.

Although the university expects to have at least one virtual proctoring system ready for use in the coming weeks, **The Chang School wants to emphasize that administering these exams is not recommended**. The process is time consuming, resource intensive, and is at serious risk of technical failure due to the necessity for extended, sustained internet access. Another consideration is that this option may compound student anxiety in an already stressful time.

If *you do* choose to utilize virtual proctoring as your assessment option, please be prepared to grant exceptions when a student's circumstances prevent them from participating (access to technology, internet speed, timezone, etc.). In these instances, instructors will need to make alternative arrangements for these students to take the exam (refer below for Alternative Assessment Approaches).

If you feel that you absolutely need to have an exam virtually proctored, please connect with your Academic Coordinator and Program Director as soon as possible.

In light of these challenges associated with virtual proctoring, we **strongly suggest** that you instead consider one of the following alternative assessment approaches.

## Alternative Assessment Approaches:

1. Online exams in D2L using the [D2L Quizzes tool](#). To reduce the risk of cheating, we suggest that you follow effective practices for the design and setup of online exams. A resource identifying such practices will be available on the [CELT website](#) early next week.
2. Additional alternative assessment resources
  - a. [Rethinking your assessments](#)
  - b. [Recommended practices for transforming final exams and assessments](#)

For support with these approaches, I encourage you to join one of our [daily virtual drop-in sessions on Zoom](#). And please don't hesitate to contact our Teaching Support staff ([changteach@ryerson.ca](mailto:changteach@ryerson.ca)) with your questions or concerns.

I hope you find this information helpful. Again, I sincerely appreciate your dedication to providing an exceptional learning experience for our students.

Sincerely,

Gary Hepburn, PhD  
Dean