



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER
UNIVERSITY

Frequently Asked Questions

Registration

Where can I find a complete list of the courses you are offering online for the Fall of 2020?

Students can find a list of online courses organized by faculty at the following link:

https://www2.mystfx.ca/sites/mystfx.ca.registrars-office/files/Remote_Delivery_Courses_1.pdf

Will I be able to take all the courses I need online?

Since not all of StFX's courses are being offered online, it may not be possible for students studying remotely to get all their required courses. We are, however, committed to working with individual students to provide support and explore possible accommodations and options. Please make an appointment with an Academic Advisor and be sure to describe your specific situation in your email.

What is the difference between scheduled and no scheduled delivery? How do I know which one I should enroll in?

Online-scheduled delivery (synchronous)

- Course is delivered on-line by live lecture with opportunities to engage with peers and the professor in real time
- Students are expected to attend and participate in class on the days and times listed on the timetable
- For students who plan on returning to Antigonish and those unable to return to campus who are looking for classes with a defined schedule

Online – No scheduled Delivery (asynchronous)

- Course is delivered on-line with no scheduled meeting times
- Students are expected to participate in course activities and will progress through the course material following a course outline
- For students who plan on returning to Antigonish and those unable to return to campus, are in another time zone, or are looking for classes with a flexible schedule

What if the course I need to take this semester is only offered in-person?

If a course you are required is being offered only in-person this coming semester, contact an Academic Advisor who will work with you to try to find an alternative or find ways to provide accommodations.

What if the online course I need to take is full?

You may still have a chance of getting into the class if it is required for your program. Complete the Override Request form found in your MesAMIS account.

Can I register in an in-person class if I can access the content remotely?

Students who are not able or do not plan on being physically present on campus this Fall should not register for in-person courses. In-person classes require students to be present in a physical classroom environment to allow for interaction with the professor and other students in real-time.

Will some Winter courses be offered online as well?

Decisions regarding the Winter semester will be made in the Fall. The university is constantly monitoring the situation and consulting with Nova Scotia Public Health. A finalized timetable for the Winter term courses will be announced at that time.

I am in a different time zone and some of the courses I need to take are scheduled at times that will be a challenge. What do I do?

Most courses are delivered at a scheduled time (synchronously), meaning that students and the instructors meet in real-time. Students are encouraged to attend synchronous classes at the scheduled time so that you can fully participate in the course. Instructors are encouraged to record lectures for students who cannot attend, but they are not required to do so. Furthermore, any recording of a lecture should be used as a backup in the event that a student misses a course, not as the primary mode of attendance.

If a course with scheduled delivery is unsuitable for your situation, we are also offering some courses that are unscheduled (asynchronous). This means that you can complete the course at a time of day that works better for you, but you will still be guided by a class outline.

Technology

What if I have a bad internet connection?

Faculty members are mindful of this issue and are being encouraged to use strategies that will reduce the amount of bandwidth needed to participate in courses. For example, in most situations students will not turn on their cameras during class as a way to reduce bandwidth. Students who have unreliable internet at home are also encouraged to explore options to use public spaces with free wi-fi, such as local libraries. The university does not recommend relying on a data plan to take courses, unless it consists of unlimited data, as taking courses online can use a lot of data.

What kind of equipment do I need to participate in an online course?

Our IT services department has made a list of the minimum technology needed to participate in online classes: stfx.teamdynamix.com/TDClient/1764/Portal/KB/ArticleDet?ID=89348

Also, the following link will help you find your way with various software that you will need to use while enrolled at StFX: bit.ly/stfx-new

What platforms will online classes use?

The main learning platforms will be Moodle and Collaborate. Both of these platforms are designed specifically for use in education (versus business) environments. Both have features that try to replicate the physical classroom.

Can I use Moodle and Collaborate on my phone?

Yes! Both are mobile friendly. Many course activities can be done on your phone using a web browser. Possible activities include completing course readings, watching live or recorded lectures,

submitting assignments, participating in discussion boards, collaborating in groups, and viewing grades. You should not use your phone for quizzes and exams.

What browser should I use?

Google Chrome works best for Collaborate. Moodle works well in all browsers.

Learning from a Distance

I haven't studied online before. What can I expect?

The online classroom is an active environment, just like a face-to-face class. The type of experience you have will depend on whether you take a course with scheduled delivery or no scheduled delivery. An online class with scheduled-delivery, takes place in real-time. You can expect to get to know your professors and your peers during the semester as you participate in live lectures, engage in problem-solving, ask questions live, as well as participate in small-group discussions and other classroom activities.

In an online class with no scheduled-delivery, the classroom will look a bit different. You may be asked to participate more in written chats, watch videos of your professor explaining concept, or be asked to post videos of yourself giving a presentation.

In either format, online learning requires the same commitment as attending an in-person class. You must be disciplined and keep up with the work.

What happens if I won't be on campus to attend office hours? How do I reach my professor outside of the classroom?

All office hours during the Fall 2020 semester will be held virtually, regardless of whether the class is offered face-to-face or online. That means that just like your peers who are taking classes in-person on campus, you will be able to reach your professor through virtual office hours. Professors will include details on how to reach them during office hours on their syllabus.

How can I prepare for online learning?

We have added information that will help you prepare for learning online to the *X-Starts Here* and *X-Continues Here* student readiness programs. To access the information, go to moodle.stfx.ca and login using your StFX username (i.e. x2020qqq) and password. *X-Starts Here (XSH)* and *X-Continues Here (XCH)* will show in your list of available courses.

International students

I'm an international student and have questions about taking my courses online. Who can answer questions about immigration status, study permits, etc.

Contact Donald Rasmussen, International Student Advisor, drasmuss@stfx.ca. Donald will be happy to discuss your options and guide you to a choice that is best for you.