

Thursday, November 09, 2017

Dear Durham College student,

I want to begin by saying that I understand this is a confusing and anxious period of time for you. You chose Durham College (DC) because you wanted a reliable and rewarding student experience, as well as access to a quality post-secondary education, and the current strike is impacting both. Please know, you are not alone in your frustration. This is not the start to the academic year we had planned. We are all concerned and focused on getting you and our faculty back into the classroom.

As we work towards that goal, I also know there have been a lot of questions about the strike, important questions that we have done our best to answer. Our goal is transparency and honesty, and we are sharing as much information as possible with you, through our [website](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [DC Mail](#).

I want to thank you for engaging with us through those channels. Please be assured, your comments and concerns are being heard. We continue to provide responses through public posts, our FAQs, email, [DC Cares](#), and direct messages.

As negotiations continue between OPSEU and the College Employer Council, there remains a lot of uncertainty about your semester completion plans.

Here is what I know today:

- Fall semester classes will continue through the week of December 18 – 22, 2017.
- The holiday break will be from Friday, December 22 at 6 p.m. - Monday, January 1, 2018.
- Fall semester classes will resume on Tuesday, January 2, 2018.
- Instead of the scheduled formal final exam week in December, assessments will be conducted in your scheduled classes as part of the semester completion plan.
- Winter semester will begin on Monday, January 15, 2018.
- Winter semester classes will continue through reading week and therefore the regularly scheduled break week will be cancelled.
- The winter semester will end Friday, April 27, 2018.

While these **dates are accurate at this time, with every week that the strike continues, they may need to be adjusted.** Please continue to monitor DC's website and social media channels and check your DC Mail for updates as they become available.

In anticipation of your return to class, the college is focused on developing plans to ensure your education remains on track and the academic quality and integrity of your program is not compromised. Unfortunately, the exact details of those plans cannot be finalized until the strike ends and faculty return to the college. As soon as we are aware of your return to class date, your dean will communicate program-specific semester completion plans to you via DC Mail.

I understand this is an incredibly difficult time for you as a student. We appreciate the fact that throughout it all you have remained respectful of the faculty on strike and have demonstrated a passionate commitment to your education and future success.

I look forward to seeing you back in class in the near future.

Don Lovisa  
President  
Durham College