



MEDIA RELEASE: FALL IN-PERSON CLASSES

For the first time since mid-March of 2020, St. Clair College will be offering its traditional, in-person classes at the launch of the Fall semester on September 7, 2021.

College President Patti France announced the resumption of in-person instruction via emails to students and staff on July 20, 2021.

St. Clair's decision abides by the announcement by the Ministry of Colleges and Universities on July 19, allowing postsecondary institutions to re-open fully if they abide by the COVID-19 controls recommended by federal, provincial and regional health authorities.

St. Clair ceased in-person instruction in mid-March of 2020, when the pandemic first arose in this area (and Canada as a whole).

Within the span of one week during that month, it converted the curriculum-delivery method of almost all of its 100-plus programs to on-line lecturing – allowing 2019-20 students to complete their academic year.

Subsequently, 2020-21's "hybrid" education of on-line lectures and on-campus attendance for essential labs, workshops and clinics proved to be so popular that St. Clair set a record enrolment level during the pandemic year.

Still, France noted, "that format certainly wasn't the preference among either students or the College itself, because the face-to-face interaction between teacher-and-student and student-and-student is truly the ideal version of 'The St. Clair Experience'.

"But the pandemic made remote instruction a necessity, and faculty, staff and students made it a success. The ingenuity, adaptability and persistence of both teachers and learners allowed us to continue to deliver an excellent postsecondary education throughout the pandemic."

In her to students and staff, France observed, "During that past almost-year-and-a-half, we did what we had to do. Now, we can joyfully return to doing what we want to do: namely, to teach and provide a host of services to students in face-to-face fashion, coupled with celebrating a social atmosphere of fun and friendship in the College's non-academic activities."

The President added, "We are so appreciative of the Ministry, for its recognition of the importance of face-to-face education; and for assisting us throughout the past 16 months in the development of campus health protocols which allowed us to stage our labs, workshops and clinics in a safe manner. Throughout the past academic year, that allowed us to continue to provide our students with the hands-on expertise for which St. Clair is so highly regarded."

Many of those protocols will remain in place when in-person classes resume, France noted, including mandatory mask-wearing and social-distancing.

In her letter to students, the President noted: “While it is not, currently, our intention to demand proof-of-vaccination from students as a prerequisite for attendance, it is certainly the College’s desire that all students will receive such inoculations – for your own well-being, and that of your family, friends and fellow students. Please, keep yourself healthy, and realize that we each have a role to play in keeping our campus community healthy.”

Sixteen St. Clair programs will continue to be offered in a strictly on-line format, at least during the Fall semester (see accompanying document). This is due to the fact that a substantial portion of their enrolment takes the form of international students who still cannot make their way to Canada at this time.

Six other programs will be delivered in both an on-line and in-person manner, reflecting the fact that their enrolments are almost equally divided between domestic and international students.