

Dear Faculty and Staff,

As we approach final exam season, we would like to thank you for your hard work during the term. Our students have benefited from in-person instruction and hands-on learning that make LFS an exciting place to learn.

In light of the current respiratory virus season, we have developed language to share with your class regarding masks during final exams. We support **strongly encouraging that students wear masks** during final exams to keep themselves, other students, faculty, staff, and our wider communities healthy. We hope that by encouraging a culture of mask-wearing at final exams we can minimize illness and ensure that more students are able to finish the final exam period without becoming ill.

Instructors may find the following language useful in preparing for the upcoming Dec. 2022 final exam season. Feel free to personalize the following statement to use in written and oral communication with your classes.

Health and Safety during final exams: For our in-person final exam, it is important that all students, staff, and faculty feel comfortable. This is particularly important during a time of year when illness is on the rise. Effective masks that cover our noses and mouths are a primary tool to make it harder for respiratory viruses to spread. We strongly encourage that you wear a mask during our final exam, for your own protection and the safety and comfort of everyone else in the class. As a community, this is a measure that we can take to support each other to remain healthy so that we can successfully complete the final exam period.

If you have not yet had a chance to get vaccinated against influenza and/or COVID-19, vaccines are available to you, free and on campus. To learn more and book an appointment register at [Immunize BC](#). The higher the rate of vaccination in our community overall, the lower the chance of spreading disease. You are an important part of the UBC community. Please arrange to get vaccinated if you have not already done so.

Follow the measures outlined in the [UBC Campus Rules](#). **If you're sick, it's important that you stay home – no matter what you think you may be sick with (e.g., cold, flu, other). If you are sick on a final exam day, do not attend the exam.** You must apply for deferred standing (an academic concession) through your advising office no later than 48 hours after the missed final exam/assignment. Please see <https://students.ubc.ca/enrolment/academic-learning-resources/academic-concessions>.

Please note that we have sent an email to students directly to strongly encourage them to exercise safety by wearing masks when indoors. In addition, we have advised students to only attend final exams if they are feeling well – and shared resources should they need to apply for an academic concession if they miss an exam due to illness, or other reasons. Any student who misses an exam must apply for academic concession by contacting their home Faculty Advising Office, and students are being directed to these webpages for information:

List of Academic Advising Offices by Faculty:

<https://students.ubc.ca/enrolment/academic-learning-resources/academic-advising>

UBC Academic Concession Policy:

<https://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,329,0,0>

Medical and Emotional Difficulties (LFS students only):

<https://www.landfood.ubc.ca/undergraduate/student-services/medical-emotional-difficulties/>

Academic Concession Request Form (LFS students only):

<https://www.landfood.ubc.ca/undergraduate/student-services/online-forms/>

We want to remind you to stay home if you are not feeling well – please use the [BC COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool](#) to help guide your decisions; and to encourage you to wear masks during exams.

We have masks available for you, your TAs and for students – they will be available at the main FNH office on the second floor, and in McML in the Dean’s Office and in Student Services.

Good luck as you prepare for final exams and we wish you the best as you wrap-up Term 1.

Sincerely,
Sandra Brown
Associate Dean Academic

Rickey Yada
Dean