

To All Athabasca University Faculty of Business Students

From Dr. Deborah Hurst, Dean of Business, Athabasca University

Dear AU-FB Students,

Clearly, this is an unprecedented time for all of us. We are faced with changes and challenges that we would have never considered at the beginning of 2020. Amid the response to COVID-19, we as the AU Faculty of Business (AU-FB) are coming together to support you and each other like never before. We all need to be even more flexible and resilient in the face of this uncertainty. I want you to know that our AU-FB team members are all stepping up to support you and help navigate this new reality. You will continue to receive support and regular update communications from both Athabasca University in general and us on how we are working together to support you, our students.

Most important is that we are continuing to run courses. As a digital university, we are fortunate to have the infrastructure in place to help all of you complete your studies from home. We are working to make adjustments in order to fit within into a fully online reality (i.e. course examinations, in-residence electives for our MBA students) while the COVID-19 threat is in play. Our academic program directors will keep you posted as changes are made to our summer schedule as well as if we must extend these changes to our fall schedule.

For our undergraduate students:

Advisors in the Student Support Centre are available to assist with administrative issues and to ensure that you receive the academic support you need. Your in-course Academic Experts continue to be available to assist you with any academic needs. Should you require support, please contact us without hesitation. Use the “Make a Request” button found in the right hand menu of your course, email business-support@athabascau.ca, or call us at 1.800.468.6531 (Faculty of Business phone lines remain open).

For those who need extra time to complete a course, Athabasca University has waived the course extension fee. Please email enrol@athabascau.ca with your name, ID, and course name/number to make your request.

If you are a funded student, please email sfa@athabascau.ca to discuss your situation.

For our graduate students:

Exclusively online courses will run as per normal, although some flexibility is being provided by your Course Coaches and Academic Area Managers (please check with them for any accommodations available). For courses starting in February, March, April, May or June, you may withdraw at any time without academic or financial penalty. Anyone currently enrolled in the Applied Projects course, or who enrolls prior to July 1, may apply for a three month extension without additional fees.



The summer session of (blended course) RDLD 680 is being reformatted to offer as a virtual in-residence. RIBR 605 may also be reformatted this way but we will confirm that decision later on in the week. If you are enrolled in one of these courses, you will receive information soon on how the course will run. You will need to make yourself available for scheduled synchronous video conferencing during the course. We will provide the schedule very soon for those of you registered in RDLD 680. In addition to the fully virtual offering, we have scheduled a new offering of RDLD 680 in blended format (online and in-residence week) to take place in the fall unless the COVID-19 restrictions continue. Our international blended courses with an in-residence week in the UK, has unfortunately been cancelled for 2020.

If you are getting ready to graduate and/or require 9 credits or less to complete your degree program at this time, you may apply to have your final blended course with in-residence week requirement waived. Requests must be received by the MBA program director prior to July 1, 2020.

Should you require support regarding any aspect of your graduate course or program please email ssq@fb.athabascau.ca or visit the [Graduate Student Support webpage](#).

For all students:

It is our intention to work with any of you who need additional time, flexibility or support. We know that you are all facing unique circumstances as a result of COVID-19 and we are committed to supporting you in the best way we can. If you need a course extension, withdrawal, deferral, program re-organization, or any other advice or support, we are here to help. Please note that the university recommends the comprehensive Wellness Support Program with Homewood Health to help support you if you experience any mental health and wellness needs. Please use the following link to contact them:

<http://counselling.athabascau.ca/program/homewood-health.php>

We all in the AU-FB will continue to collect and share information as our regulatory situation unfolds and the diffusion of the virus takes its inevitable course. We hope that by the end of May we may be in a better position to share news with you about our planning for the rest of the summer and into fall. In any eventuality, we will keep you posted.

In closing, I want to repeat my request that you please reach out to us especially if you are struggling. We are here to help as we are all in this new reality together. You can keep up-to-date with University-wide COVID-19 information updates at:

<https://news.athabascau.ca/announcements/information-on-covid-19>

With best wishes,

Dr. Deborah Hurst
Dean of Business, Athabasca University