

**02 December 2021 11:48am**

**All staff email from Professor Allan Evans, Provost & Chief Academic Officer**

Dear Colleagues

As we hurtle towards the end of another challenging academic year, current health advice indicates that COVID-19 is likely to continue to pose a health issue in South Australia, at least for the foreseeable future. I would expect that ongoing concerns around new variants, immunisation status, boosters, contact tracing and social distancing (etc.) are with us for at least the first 6 months of 2022.

I am therefore writing to advise that following a number of discussions over recent weeks, Academic Board (at its November 26 meeting) endorsed the continuation of our modified teaching and learning arrangements into 2022 as summarised below. I understand that these adjustments may cause frustration among students and staff. Nevertheless, Academic Board agreed that by making the decision now we will be providing the certainty that is needed to put plans in place well ahead of the commencement of the major teaching activities in 2022. Of course, we will continue to monitor the situation throughout 2022 and make appropriate adjustments if possible. As usual, Academic Board will be involved in such matters.

**Lectures:** To ensure that we can continue to meet social distancing requirements and contact tracing obligations, lectures will remain online throughout 2022. Course Coordinators will need to continue to provide alternative high-quality learning resources, including (as appropriate) full-length lecture recordings, shorter video modules, or other interactive and informative online learning content. Importantly, other on-campus teaching activities such as seminars, tutorials, studios, practicals, workshops etc. can continue in a face-to-face format, unless we are advised otherwise.

**Exams:** We will continue to offer online examinations via **learnonline** for the duration of 2022. Depending on the nature of the course offering, Course Coordinators may request an online invigilated examination via the remote proctoring service RPNOW, currently used in UniSA Online. Course Coordinators may also have the option to offer an on-campus face-to-face invigilated examination. There may also be a need to adjust exam length to ensure students are not disadvantaged when moving from one examination format to another. Details on the process to finalise examination plans for 2022 will be provided over coming weeks. As usual, Course Coordinators will continue to have the option of offering alternative types of assessment, including invigilated tests and other assessments in class (maintaining social distancing), if they do not wish to conduct an online examination.

All undergraduate and postgraduate coursework students (excluding UniSA Online students) will shortly be informed of these 2022 arrangements, highlighting once again their academic integrity obligations in an online environment.

Once again thank you for your steadfast support and resilience in addressing the complexities of managing COVID-19. Pleasingly, I have noted in my current round of visits to all Academic Units (as part of the Curriculum Innovation Process) that our students continue to provide very positive feedback in relation to their course quality. This is a great reflection of your commitment to ensuring a high quality learning experience for our students, irrespective of the challenges.

Regards and best wishes for a restful break before 2022 begins.