



Grande Prairie Regional College 2020/2021 Relaunch Scenario Plan

Introduction

Across the globe, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact people's lives and the economic, political, and financial landscape. The situation is dire with the virus being highly communicable. At the time of this writing, there are 9.1 million confirmed cases of people with COVID-19 and over 473,000 deaths according to the World Health Organization (World Health Organization, 2020). While information about the disease changes daily, it remains clear that strict measures are critical for slowing the spread of the disease. The Chief Medical Officer of Health for the Province of Alberta has provided robust guidelines and restrictions as the pandemic has progressed and is currently in Stage 1 of the Province's relaunch plan. There is contemplation of progressing to Stage 2 around June 19, 2020, which would result in the alleviation of the work-from-home recommendations and would enable the return to work of employees that are unable to work from home or that need to be on campus. The rapidly evolving situation requires regular reviews of decisions and robust planning and research of best-practices in order to protect our students, faculty and staff while continuing delivery of the College's mandate. The purpose of this relaunch scenario plan is to clarify guiding principles, to document considerations that must be in place, and to assess the risks associated with available delivery models during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Guiding Principles

GPRC will use the following guiding principles in decision-making:

- We will consider the health and well-being of students, faculty and staff above all else.
- We will provide the best possible learning experience to our students.
- We will consider required learning outcomes when evaluating scenarios.
- We will prioritize risk mitigation and robust planning and adherence to protocols.
- We will drive decisions by adhering to recommendations and guidelines of the Chief Medical Officer of Health for the Province of Alberta.
- We will endeavour to coordinate our response with the sector to promote commonality with the system.
- We will consider industry standards as they may relate to our delivery, when applicable.
- We will approach decisions with attention to equitability.
- We will ensure students, staff and faculty are supported to achieve success in all delivery models.
- We will strive to maintain consistency in approach for students, where possible, on a semester-by-semester basis, keeping in mind that some evolutions are outside of college control.
- We will communicate decisions as quickly as possible.

Considerations

The following considerations to reduce the risk of on-campus COVID-19 transmission will be in place for the Fall 2020 semester. These measures may remain in effect during all or some of the stages outlined in Alberta's relaunch strategy at the discretion of GPRC Executive on the recommendation of the GPRC COVID-19 Emergency Response Team.

Distancing and Access Control Measures

- Cough guards will be installed at front line service locations that experience high volumes of traffic flow and 2-meter distancing is difficult to maintain.
- Markings will be placed on floors at 2-meter intervals in areas that experience lineups to encourage proper physical distancing.
- Furniture will be repositioned in common gathering spaces to encourage proper physical distancing.
- Facility access and utilization control measures will be exercised as necessary to promote safe levels of building occupancy and reduce risk of COVID-19 exposure on campus.
- Daily attendance and contact information will be kept for all staff and students attending in-person classes.

Cleaning

- Increased cleaning staff presence and increased touch point cleaning throughout the day.
- Sanitizer dispensers located at all exterior entrances, classroom and lab entrances and throughout buildings.
- Sanitizing wipes and spray cleaners available in labs and areas where multiple users are sharing devices and equipment.
- Students, faculty and staff will be expected to sanitize shared used items or equipment before and after each use.
- Increased signage on campus to encourage good hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette.

Screening for Symptoms

- Faculty, staff and students will be screened for COVID-19 symptoms daily through the development of screening features in the GPRC App prior to entering the facility. Upon entering the facility, thermal temperature checks may be required.
- Symptomatic or sick individuals will not be permitted inside GPRC facilities except for individuals residing in student housing.
- Mandatory isolation requirements will be in effect for all GPRC students, faculty and staff per Government of Alberta (GOA) guidelines found at <https://www.alberta.ca/isolation.aspx>
- A rapid response plan will be in effect to quickly address and monitor illness and outbreaks on campus including student housing.
- The college will engage Alberta Health Services for public health guidance if a COVID-19 case is confirmed on campus.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Wearing of masks will be required in high traffic flow areas such as hallways as well as any area where 2-meter physical distancing measures cannot be achieved.

- Training will be encouraged and made available to ensure individuals utilize PPE effectively against COVID-19 transmission.

Communications

- Regular updates will be communicated to the college community to ensure staff and students remain up to date with developments related to COVID-19.
- Orientation will be provided to help faculty, staff and students understand the measures being taken on campus to prevent the risk of transmission of infection and how their actions help make the college community safe.
- Expectations of students, faculty and staff returning to class in the fall will be communicated prior to the start of the fall classes.
- Course timetable will be updated to indicate section delivery method, clearly distinguishing online delivery (asynchronous), remote delivery (synchronous), and in-person delivery method.

Mental Health

- Support the psychological health and safety of employees in addition to meeting public health guidelines.
- Remind staff and students regularly of mental health and social supports that are available.

Delivery Models

Four delivery models will be utilized at various stages of the GPRC relaunch plan which are categorized as Remote, Mixed, Blended and In-Person.

The following table provides a summary of each delivery model and its associated characteristics are detailed below:

	Remote		Mixed		Blended		In-Person	
	F2F	R	F2F	R	F2F	R	F2F	R
Lab	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Practicum	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lecture	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Seminar	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

F2F means Face-to-Face Delivery. R means Remote Delivery. If both boxes are checked it means either are accepted. GOA stages relate to stages outlined in Alberta's Relaunch Strategy.

This table does not apply to distance courses. Distance (EC) courses that are normally delivered through asynchronous online delivery will continue to be delivered in that model.

✓ means permitted, and if face-to-face, with appropriate social distancing and protective considerations in place ✗ means prohibited

Remote Delivery

- Courses are delivered remotely in a synchronous manner, adhering to the published timetable.
- On-campus or face-to-face delivery is prohibited.
- Only essential services and research activities are permitted on-campus.

- Faculty members are not permitted on campus.
- Remote delivery was used at GPRC during the Winter/Spring 2020 semesters.
- EC sections will continue as normally scheduled, VC sections would not be scheduled.

Mixed Delivery

- Remote delivery required for all lecture and seminar course components.
- In-person delivery permitted for lab and practicum course components where necessary and possible, at the discretion of GPRC Executive and based upon instructions from the Chief Medical Officer of Health, for courses requiring experiential components, specifically labs, with physical distancing limitations in effect (50-person max per room/2-meter physical distancing or approximately 1/3 classroom capacity).
- All faculty permitted on campus on a limited basis per guidelines currently under development.
- Services provided online, remote, and on-campus with physical distancing restrictions.
- EC sections will continue as normally scheduled, VC sections would not be scheduled.

Blended Delivery

- Simultaneous in-person and remote delivery as possible, with physical distancing restrictions in effect (50-person max per room/2-meter physical distancing or approximately 1/3 classroom capacity) at the discretion of GPRC Executive and based upon instructions from the Chief Medical Officer of Health.
- Remote delivery for remaining courses (courses that are most conducive for remote delivery, or as required based on facility restrictions).
- In-person delivery for courses requiring experiential components, with physical distancing limitations in effect.
- All faculty permitted on campus on a limited basis per guidelines currently under development.
- Services provided online and on-campus, with physical distancing restrictions.

In-Person

- In-person classes for all offerings that would typically be on-campus.
- Physical distancing and travel restrictions would need to be lifted to a sufficient level to allow normal operations.
- Continued increased use of simultaneous in-person and remote delivery is suggested to enable more delivery options for students who may not be comfortable returning to campus.
- On-campus faculty permitted.
- Services provided online and on-campus, with physical distancing restrictions.

Services on Campus

	Remote		Mixed		Blended		In-Person	
	OC	R	OC	R	OC	R	OC	R
Athletics	x	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bookstore	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Communications	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Conservatory	x	✓	x	✓	✓		✓	
Continuing Education	x	x	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Daycare	✓	x	✓	x	✓	x	✓	x

Development & Alumni Services	x	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Facilities	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	x	✓	x
Financial Services	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Food Services	x	x		x	✓	x	✓	x
Housing	✓	x	✓	x	✓	x	✓	x
Human Resources	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Information Technology	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Learning Commons	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Research & Innovation	x	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Security	✓	x	✓	x	✓	x	✓	x
Sport, Fitness & Wellness	x	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Student Experience	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Theatre & Events	x	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

OC means On Campus Service. R means delivery of service from a Remote location. If both boxes are checked it means staff are rotating on/off campus or partial staff on campus, as determined by the appropriate Dean/Director.

Service delivery models are subject to change pending guideline updates from the GOA and at the discretion of GPRC Executive on the recommendation of the GPRC COVID-19 Emergency Response Team.

✓ means the service will be available, with appropriate social distancing and protective considerations in place	Blank means permitted, but not required.	x means prohibited
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Risk Assessment

	Risks
Remote Delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced student retention and success Reduced ability to support faculty and students remotely Trade partnerships may be affected Students may choose to defer program completion College may be required to defer program completion Probable loss of significant revenue High risk of failure to achieve enrollment performance targets Reduced ability to support research services for external stakeholders Reduced student life, altered student experience Promotional efforts surrounding the complete GPRC experience are challenged Mental health impacts due to isolated teaching and learning experience
Mixed Delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spread of COVID-19 Significantly reduced facility capacity resulting in expansion of in-person sections and increased instructional costs Unscheduled facility closure, resulting in reversion to remote delivery Reduced student retention and success Reduced ability to support faculty and students remotely

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ PPE availability ▪ Students may choose to defer program completion ▪ College may be required to defer program completion ▪ Possible loss of revenue ▪ Risk of failure to achieve enrollment performance targets ▪ Increased and unpredictable costs associated with implementation of COVID-19 Considerations ▪ Practicum partners responsible to ensure proper protocols in place ▪ Reduced student life, altered student experience ▪ Promotional efforts surrounding the complete GPRC experience are challenged ▪ Mental health impacts due to isolated teaching and learning experience ▪ Mental health impacts due to fear of infection on campus ▪ Individuals not adhering to GPRC’s COVID-19 guidelines
Blended Delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Higher risk of spread of COVID-19 ▪ Somewhat reduced facility capacity resulting in possible expansion of in-person sections and increased instructional costs ▪ Unscheduled facility closure, resulting in reversion to remote delivery ▪ Delivery model is not equitable among students ▪ Reduced student retention and success ▪ Reduced ability to support faculty and students remotely ▪ PPE availability ▪ Reduced risk of failure to achieve performance targets ▪ Increased and unpredictable costs associated with implementation of COVID-19 Considerations ▪ Practicum partners responsible to ensure proper protocols in place ▪ Mental health impacts due to fear of infection on campus ▪ Individuals not adhering to GPRC’s COVID-19 guidelines
In-Person	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Highest risk of spread of COVID-19 ▪ Possible reduced facility capacity resulting in expansion of in-person sections and increased instructional costs ▪ Unscheduled facility closure, resulting in change to remote delivery model ▪ Reduced ability to support students who continue to attend remotely ▪ Practicum partners responsible to ensure proper protocols in place ▪ Mental health impacts due to fear of infection on campus ▪ Individuals not adhering to GPRC’s COVID-19 guidelines

Recommendations

It is recommended that GPRC’s delivery model be planned to adjust based on the changing situation, using the GOA relaunch stages as general guidelines. Given current guidelines surrounding Alberta’s relaunch strategy, **we are recommending that a mixed delivery instructional model be**

implemented for the Fall 2020 semester. A decision surrounding future terms will be determined and communicated later.

Moving forward, it is important to note that we may be required to switch between delivery models mid-semester, as the GOA stages or guidelines may shift throughout an academic year. The most appropriate delivery model should be chosen in-advance on a semester-by-semester basis but we should be prepared to change our delivery model with very little notice pending changing guidelines from the GOA.

	Delivery Model			
	Spring 2020	Fall 2020	TBD	TBD
	Remote	Mixed	Blended	In-Person
In-person classes are prohibited (GOA Stage 1)	✓	✗	✗	✗
In-person classes permitted, with strict physical distancing restrictions (GOA Stage 1)		✓	✗	✗
In-person classes permitted, with restrictions, work-from-home restrictions lifted (GOA Stage 2)		✓		✗
Physical distancing restrictions relaxed (GOA Stage 3)			✓	

✓ means recommended delivery model Blank means allowed (by GOA), but not recommended ✗ means prohibited delivery model

Note: This table does not apply to distance courses. Distance (EC) courses that are normally delivered through asynchronous online delivery will continue to be delivered in that model.

Conclusion

The situation with COVID-19 is constantly evolving. The College must be prepared to adapt our delivery models to changing restrictions and physical distancing requirements while maintaining adherence to the guiding principles.

Appendixes

Appendix A – Detailed list of delivery method by Course under Mixed Model

Glossary

“GPRC COVID-19 Emergency Response Team” is a group formed by GPRC Executive to plan and respond to the evolving situation resulting from COVID-19. Members of the team include GPRC Executive and the Directors of Human Resources, Communications, Facilities Maintenance and Operations, and Information Technology.

“Online Delivery” refers to delivering programming in a primarily asynchronous manner. Course materials are delivered through Brightspace (D2L). Asynchronous instruction is facilitated through Brightspace and can be supplemented synchronously through Zoom.

“Remote Delivery” refers to delivering traditional programming in a forum to facilitate achievement of course syllabus deliverables where face-to-face instruction is not possible. Course materials are delivered through Brightspace (D2L). Synchronous instruction is facilitated through Zoom as per the published timetable and can be supplemented asynchronously through Brightspace.

“Synchronous” means everyone involved in the same activity at the same time.

“Lab” means hands-on, experiential teaching, learning, and research through multiple in-class formats including laboratory, shop, physical activity, and some practicum sessions.

Supplemental Resources

Alberta Relaunch Strategy:

<https://www.alberta.ca/alberta-relaunch-strategy.aspx>

<https://www.alberta.ca/external/covid19-alberta-relaunch-strategy.pdf>

Government of Alberta Relaunch Guidance for Post Secondary Institutions

<https://www.alberta.ca/assets/documents/covid-19-relaunch-guidance-post-secondary-institutions.pdf>

Government of Alberta Relaunch Considerations for Businesses:

<https://www.alberta.ca/assets/documents/covid-19-relaunch-considerations-for-businesses.docx>

Government of Alberta Workplace Guidance for Business Owners:

<https://www.alberta.ca/assets/documents/covid-19-workplace-guidance-for-business-owners.pdf>

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