

GRADUATE EXPECTATIONS ARISING FROM THE MCMASTER VACCINATION POLICY

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in unique infection risks and serious health consequences. This academic regulation has been developed to comply with public health regulations and McMaster's Vaccination Policy.

All graduate students attending University property are considered **"On-Site Community Members"**. To be/remain enrolled in McMaster courses with in-person components, they must provide proof that they are fully vaccinated or obtain an exemption from the University on the basis of substantiated human rights grounds. Students are encouraged to complete this process as soon as possible. Before attending University property each day, all On-Site graduate students must also complete the MacCheck screening questionnaire.

Graduate students who do not want or need to attend University property but who regularly work or study at sanctioned off-campus sites and interact with other employees or students are considered **"Off-Site Community Members"**. This includes students enrolled in clinical placements, cooperative work experiences or other external experiential course requirements. Off-Site students must also provide proof that they are fully vaccinated or obtain an exemption from the University to be/remain enrolled in their programs. Depending on the situation, McMaster may also require Off-Site students to complete MacCheck, but will communicate these requirements directly to the affected students. Finally, Off-Site students must comply with any additional external protocols at their worksite or study site.

Students in the Faculty of Health Sciences who are involved in learning in the clinical environment must also meet requirements under the FHS Policy Regarding Submission, Verification, and Sharing of COVID-19 Vaccination Status for Learners in Clinical and Workplace-Based Placements.

FOR FALL TERM 2021 AND SUBSEQUENT TERMS DURING ACADEMIC YEAR 2021/22

1. All students are required to visit the **MacCheck** digital tool to register their vaccination information as soon as possible. The deadline for submitting a request for exemption is September 19, 2021 at 11:59 p.m. ET.
2. On-Site graduate students who have uploaded proof of their vaccinations, or have received an exemption from the University, will be able to continue their enrolment in Fall Term 2021 and future terms during academic year 2021/22. Off-Site graduate students will also be able to complete their off-campus work or student program after they have uploaded proof of their vaccinations, or have received an exemption, as long as they also comply with any additional protocols in place at their site or through the Faculty of Health Sciences.
3. **Students must also complete the daily MacCheck screening within the hour before accessing University property for any reason. A successful screening result on MacCheck is required for any visit to campus.**
4. Enrolment in the Fall Term 2021 will be cross-checked between September 7th and October 18th to identify those students who have not met the requirements of the McMaster

Vaccination Policy.

Beginning October 18th, On-Site graduate students enrolled for Fall Term 2021 who have not completed their vaccinations or who have not received an exemption from the University **will be “withdrawn in good standing”**.. (International graduate students enrolled in programs but not yet able to arrive in Canada due to study permit delays will not be subject to the Oct 18th deadline.)

- a) Students who are withdrawn will receive tuition reimbursement (net of scholarship and stipend arrangements at October 31st) for Fall 2021 and registration in degree components for the term will be removed from their transcript.
 - b) Students enrolled in programs whose degree offerings are designated by the program to be entirely virtual or non-clinical Off-Site placements in Fall 2021, will be allowed to remain enrolled until Dec 31st.
 - c) Students with OSAP are also encouraged to contact the Registrar’s Office to understand any OSAP implications.
 - d) Students who are in the final term of their degree (i.e. expecting to complete all remaining degree requirements in Fall 2021) and have no reason to be on campus will be allowed to remain enrolled and complete their degree. Graduate program offices will be consulted by the School of Graduate Studies to verify completion expectations. In the event of unanticipated delays in completion, a student should be directed to the Associate Dean of the Faculty hosting the graduate program for guidance.
 - e) Questions regarding the prospects for future readmission should be directed to the Associate Dean of the Faculty hosting the graduate program.
- 5. Any student found to be in violation of the Vaccination Policy is prohibited from accessing University Property and may be subject to outcomes and/or sanctions under the *Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities*.**