

7 July 2020

**COMMUNIQUÉ FROM THE OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR: TEACHING AND
LEARNING**

CATCH-UP PLAN

Dear Staff and Students

For various reasons, students have joined online learning in a staggered schedule. Whereas the majority of students started immediately on 1 June 2020, a smaller cohort will be joining early in July, a month after the official start of online learning, in terms of the published [plan](#), [principles and guidelines](#) for students and staff. Additionally, practical teaching and learning classes were planned to start after the students enrolled for modules with practical learning components have returned to residences, from which they could attend practical classes. For the foregoing reasons, the EMC Teaching and Learning Task Team had already agreed that a catch-up plan would be developed to cater for the staggered schedule. Revised sessional dates to cater for these arrangements will be considered and approved by Senate on 8 July 2020.

The purpose of this communique is to provide information on the principles of the catch-up plan, in terms of which teaching teams will cater for students joining online learning, and commencing their practical classes in the first week of July 2020.

Notification is therefore issued that practical classes will be starting during the first week of July. Students and staff will follow the guidelines of the COVID-19 Task Team for entry onto campuses, and for participation in the practical classes. Students and staff will observe all safety precautions during the practical classes, and to ensure the safety of other staff and students, violation of the safety protocols will result in immediate removal from the practical classes.

For the theoretical components of modules, online learning continues and there will be no contact learning classes. The essence of the catch-up plan for the theoretical components of modules is that the online solution that began on 1 June 2020 is extended to the first week in September so that all students have the opportunity to make up on lost time. The purpose of the catch-up assessments is to provide extra opportunities for all students to demonstrate achievement of learning outcomes and to improve their overall performance.

Issued by

Professor Sandile Phinda Songca

Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Teaching and Learning