ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Teaching and Learning for the Extension to the Enhanced Community Quarantine (until April 30)
From the Academic Affairs Office

The Learning Context

Our learning context today—challenged by the enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) due to COVID-19 pandemic—is not the most favorable, but Far Eastern University maintains the important balance between your safety and our educational mission.

Alternative learning modes and outcomes were implemented from March 20 to April 14. These allowed students to work offline and self-paced. For more than 4 weeks, students and faculty worked on assignments without requiring real-time online learning because FEU recognizes that each location in the country may have fluctuating internet speeds. However, the faculty were on standby for students who wished to have online consultations.

Canvas data mining from March 10 to 30, 2020 showed that 16,660 of the 18,259 students or 91% used each of their unique Canvas accounts. The concern of the remaining 9% may be addressed by the asynchronous or self-paced offline work. (They can download the questions, may coordinate with classmates and faculty through social media, and work on them even without Internet access).

Whether the internet access is slow or fast is not the primary input for students' capability to complete the activities because, again, the requirements are not submitted real-time and submission date is scheduled towards the end of the ECQ. Canvas has also been a reliable learning management system, given its self-intuitive interface and the provision of a unique account for each student and faculty. This learning can also be complemented by the use of social media especially Facebook. While Canvas cannot replace classroom interaction, it is a reasonable alternative during this extended ECQ.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Continuous Alternative Learning

Given the foregoing condition, it is viable for the majority of student and faculty to continue instruction until April 30. FEU will therefore continue with its commitment to promote quality learning by providing alternatives that help ensure mastery of competencies specified in the syllabi *with special consideration for those with slow to zero internet connection and those facing challenges to their health and wellbeing.*

Given the extension on the quarantine:

1. Teachers will create assignments for students to accomplish offline following these guidelines:

   a. assignments should cover the period of April 15 to May 15 (5 weeks);

   b. work must cover the learning of the competencies indicated in the syllabus;

   c. the grading policy must be followed, with IP (In Progress) as an additional grade option, and therefore by the end of the term (May 22) there should have been at least 8 formative assessments and 3 summative assessments (including those given on or before March 20);

   d. work assigned to student(s) must be reasonable considering that they are most likely enrolled in seven classes;

   e. the learning modules should be doable offline (e.g., downloadable assignments, offline work such as reading assignment, writing tasks, etc. which are to be submitted towards the end of the ECQ) and should be uploaded by midnight of April 19. Students should be able to download the next set of assignments by April 20.

2. **If classes are allowed to resume on May 4**, teachers are to use the remaining two weeks from (May 4-15) only for review, consultations, and completion of assignments. No additional instruction or activities are to be given during this period;

3. **If the quarantine is extended to the end of May,** all outputs must be submitted on or before May 18, 2020 in order for students to receive their grade by May 27, 2020.

4. Students who cannot access their assignments because they do not have access to the internet will be given a grade of IP (In Progress) and will be given up to July 27, two months from the end of the semester, to complete the requirements. The extension period may apply also to OJT, thesis classes, computer-lab classes, and special skills classes.

5. Output for the uploaded work should be submitted on the following dates:

For the first quarantine (till April 15)	on or before May 4, 2020
For the second quarantine (till April 30)	on or before Exam Week, May 18-22, 2020
If quarantine extends to the end of May	all work will be submitted on or before May 18, 2020

Calendar for Two Scenarios

	Resumption of Classes on May 4	Extension of the Quarantine till the end of May
April 19	Teachers post all new assignments to cover work till May 18. Students may download the work beginning April 20 and should be able to do all the work offline.	Teachers post all new assignments to cover work till May 18. Students may download the work beginning April 20 and should be able to do all the work offline.
May 4 -15	Consolidation and Consultation Period (on site). No additional work to be given.	
May 18-22	Submission of the output of the second set of learning tasks.	Submission of the output of the second set of learning tasks.

		Students who were not able to complete assignments because of lack of internet access will be given a grade of IP; deadline for completion will be July 27.
	Exam Week. Students who were not able to complete assignments because of lack of internet access will be given a grade of IP; deadline for completion is on July 27.	
June 1-5	Summer Enrollment	
June 8-24	Summer Session	
To be rescheduled	Graduation Ceremonies	

Grading System

Appropriate Letter Grade will be provided and will be used to compute QPA/GWA. As previously mentioned, the formative and summative assessment requirements are maintained, note that the faculty, who are trained to assess fairly and soundly, are instructed to give utmost consideration so that those who will initially receive an IP grade will be able to complete the requirements and receive a passing mark.

NSTP

Alternative sessions for the remaining NSTP 1 classes will be uploaded on Canvas or social media. The output will be prepared offline before submission to assigned facilitators.

For NSTP 2, all students will submit a final reflection paper based on their NSTP experience. Additional alternative activities will be assigned to students who had **less than 3** community immersion visits. These include a per-group proposal for a community project in consultation with the facilitators and reaction paper/s based on assigned reading tasks. The proposal will be done face to face when classes resume on May 4.

But if ECQ extends until the end of May, the community project proposal will be submitted online.

The NSTP Office will provide the details or updates though its Facebook Page and facilitators.

Summary of NSTP 2 requirements

Number of community immersion visits	Final Reflection paper	Community project proposal (per group)	Reading task/s	Reaction paper/s based on reading tasks
3	Yes	No	0	0
2	Yes	Yes	1	1
1	Yes	Yes	2	1
0	Yes	Yes	3	2

Internship, Production Classes, Thesis

Alternative activities will be designed by each Institute to help students offset the required internship hours. The faculty handling production classes are also advised to create alternative outputs considering the limitations of mobility and resources of students.

In consultation with thesis advisers, non-graduating students enrolled in their final stage of thesis course may opt to have an initial grade of IP to allow more time for data gathering (until July 27). The research methodology may also be reviewed to make appropriate changes, given the limitations during the ECQ.

For specific guidelines, please refer to announcements from your respective departments.

Rebate

All students will receive a pro-rated rebate from selected general miscellaneous fees and laboratory fees depending on their degree programs.

The excess credits after the rebate shall be applied to students' accounts this summer or the first semester of SY 2020 – 2021.

Refunds for graduating students will be made through check payments upon application and will be processed when operations normalize.

Wellness and Recreation Program (WRP) and FEU Learning Journey (FLJ)

FEU Learning Journey (FLJ) mentors are on standby for consultations on your personal and academic lifecycle. Students should answer at least one as it may offset missed training hours required by the Wellness and Recreation Program. Further announcement will be posted on the WRP Facebook Page.

Student Services

Guidance and Counseling (G&C) and Health Services are open for online consultations. Should you need assistance/referral, please email smhocson@feu.edu.ph or check the online appointment via G&C's Facebook Page for mental health concerns and feuhealthsvc@feu.edu.ph for medical consultation.

Graduation

Commencement exercises for Batch 2020 will be rescheduled in October or November provided that the government will already allow the conduct of big social gatherings. Relevant announcements will be released by the Registrar's Office.

The pandemic reminds us to reflect on a new "normal" in education: We must collectively hurdle this challenge in learning despite and because of our limitations. Two essential 21st-century competencies are needed in this time of uncertainty and these are **cognitive flexibility** and **adversity quotient.**

We can achieve this by focusing, finding creative solutions, being resilient and responsible amidst the distractions.

Be Brave and Be Safe, Tamaraws.