

THE EXTENSION



ACADIA
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OPEN ACADIA

News from the Director of Digital and Extended Learning Home of Open Acadia

Hello Everyone, a few updates and announcements from Open Acadia.

As always, I would like to thank the team for their hard work, persistence and ongoing support of our many cross institutional initiatives.

Christina McRae's outstanding efforts in managing all our assorted programs.

Jessica Saunders' meticulous attention to our intersession offerings.

Leah Warner's diligence in executing our examinations and coordinating an extensive array of communications with faculty, students and external test centres.

The Learning Innovation team of Sharon Churchill, Chris Edwards and Michael Shaw, who maintain all our courses, support new developments and lend a hand to the Teaching and Learning Centre on faculty development initiatives.

Terry Aulenbach our Senior Academic Technologist, who serves as the Moodle Administrator, for the entire campus, and Justin Lingard, who provides ongoing technology, communication and logistical support, as well as entertaining my endless supply of research requests.

Thank you to each of them and to all the faculty and staff at Acadia that we have the pleasure to work with every day.

Jack Rice
Director, Digital and Extended Learning

REMINDERS

Moodle Support Resources

As we start off the new term, some of our most frequently asked questions are:

- How do I make my course visible?
- How do I load resources?
- How do I create an assignment drop box?
- How do I set up the gradebook?
- How do I build quizzes?
- How can I contact students through Moodle quick mail?



Find the answers to these questions and more by checking out our [Moodle Quick Tips](#) videos for some guidance.

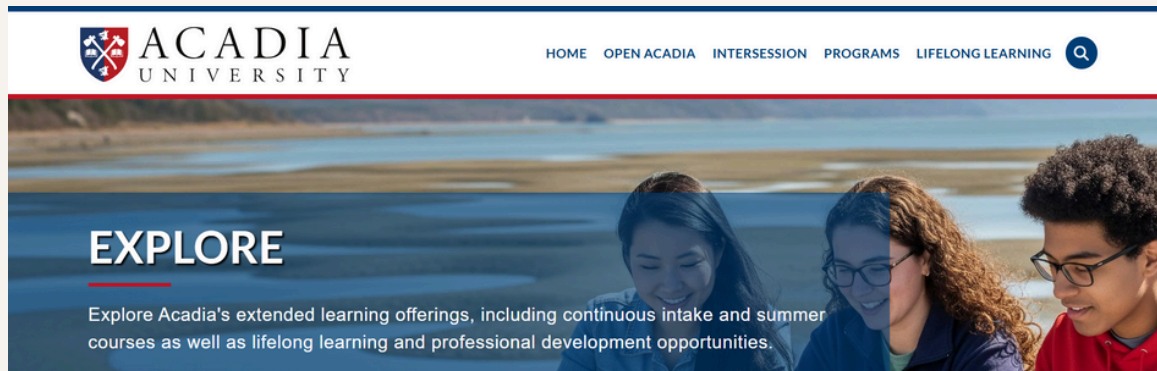
“Moodlings”

Moodle was recently upgraded from v4.5.6 to v4.5.7+ which includes mostly security patches and minor fixes. Nothing should look or function in a noticeably different way. In total 30 plugins were updated or added, and 6 deprecated plugins were removed. Turnitin Assignment 2 was also turned off, having recently been replaced by the newer Turnitin LTI 1.3 plugin. Instructions on its use can be found at <https://moodlehelp.acadiau.ca/tiassignments.html>. The Turnitin option for regular Moodle assignments remains unchanged.

Featured Plug-In for January 2026: Completion Progress [Block]

This new plugin shows students and instructor at a glance what assignments in the course have been completed, are overdue or are upcoming. Completion tracking must be turned on and conditions set for each activity on your page that you wish to track. Watch our Moodle Quick Tip video (in the folder above) to see how to set this up.

Open Acadia's Explore Platform



The new [EXPLORE](#) site, a comprehensive catalogue of offerings from around campus is now live and we have begun to populate it with various programs. All the functionality it offers (payment, discount codes, wait lists, hidden links etc.) has been tested, retested (and tested again) and I'm proud to say it is working well. On Explore you'll see a listing of all Open Acadia's Continuous Intake Courses, Intersession Offerings, ALL courses, and various other programs and courses from around the campus.

One area that I'd like to grow out on the site is our community programming under the category of Lifelong Learning. Since each course links to a Moodle site, and you can create an Explore account with any email address, I can see the opportunity for all kinds of knowledge mobilization.

Imagine:

- A faculty member recording an element of their research in support of a school or a community organization
- A special resource or a talk on a specific topic to engage with prospective students
- A course on the history of the Wolfville, Acadia or the Acadian Experience
- A community program that requires a secure landing area for projects or resources

Recently, I created a short course template that could be easily adapted. Let us know if you see similar opportunities, (or even better ideas!) and we would be thrilled to work with you.

Extension Policy for Open Acadia, Online, Continuous-Intake Courses

On Sept 2, 2025, Open Acadia instituted a new policy for online course extension requests. Please note course instructor permission is no longer required for routine course extensions. Extensions are valid for a 2-month period, and each course may be extended up to 3 times, to a maximum of 6 months of extended time. Requests must be submitted through the HUB request form at least one month in advance of the original completion date. The course extension fee is \$150 per 2-month extension request.

Open Acadia will provide consideration to fees being waived for extension requests related to exceptional circumstances such as medical considerations, and requests made by Acadia's Accessible Learning unit.

As always, I would greatly appreciate your feedback on this policy, and all of our processes at Open Acadia, so we can continue to work with the Board of Open Acadia to refine how we deliver these popular and accessible courses. Please pop up and see me to discuss. I have been so impressed with the commitment and care that faculty have demonstrated in developing and maintaining these courses.

Please
Share your
feedback

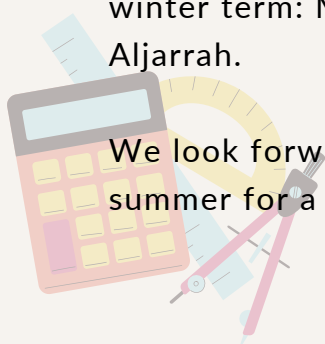


UPDATES

Certificate of Mathematics Teaching Cohort

This fully-subscribed 30 credit-hour post B.Ed. program is well underway with students beginning their second required course this winter term: MATH 1543 - Mathematical Concepts II with Dr. Ayman Aljarrah.

We look forward to welcoming all cohort students to campus this summer for a two-week summer intensive from July 6-17.



Acadia Lifelong Learning

- The winter term of the “ALLways” Learning Series begins on Friday January 16 in the K.C. Irving Centre Auditorium from 2:00pm - 3:00pm with Sally Benevides presenting on 'Researching Your Ancestors: How to Get Started'. This free weekly lecture series is provided by Acadia Lifelong Learning for the campus community and beyond – all are welcome to attend!
- Close to 30 ALL members will be participating in select undergraduate credit courses as auditors this term. ALL members bring diversity, life experience, and different perspectives to the classroom
- We are also offering five ALL courses exclusive to members this term:
 - An Introduction to Challenging Themes in Environmental Thinking with Dr. Paul Abela
 - The Long War for East/ Southeast Asia with Dr. Brendan Wright
 - Self Portraiture: Embrace it or is it All Too Scary (art workshop) with Sophia Norris
 - History of Women in Canada with Dr. Carolee Pollock
 - Bosom Friends and Yellow Brick Roads: The Girls of Classic Children's Stories with Dr. Laura Robinson



Intersession

The 2026 schedule is still evolving, but courses that have department approval should be available for registration in February. To date: The current schedule includes:

- **Summer 1 (May 11 – 30)** - 17 courses are scheduled to begin on May 11
 - Online (5); Hyflex (4); Hybrid (1); In-person (7)
 - Course durations vary between 1, 3 and 6 weeks
 - Offerings include courses in BUSI, CHEM, CODE, COMP, FRAN, GEOL, HIST and MATH
- **Summer 2 (June 1 – 19)** - 7 courses are scheduled to begin on June 1
 - Online (2); Hyflex (1); In-person (4)
 - All courses run for 3 weeks
 - Offerings include courses in BIOL, BUSI, CHEM, FRAN, HIST and SOCI
- **Summer 3 (June 22 – July 10)** – 5 courses are scheduled to begin on June 22
 - Online (3); Hybrid (2)
 - Course durations vary between 3 and 6 weeks
 - Offerings include courses in HIST, MATH, PSYC and SOCI
- **Summer 4 (July 13 – 31)** – 4 courses scheduled to begin on July 13
 - All online
 - All courses run for 3 weeks
 - Offerings include courses in MATH, PSYC and SOCI
- **Other Summer courses** - 1 course is scheduled to begin on August 24
 - In-person
 - 1 week (Aug. 24- 28)
 - Offered by ESST

[Click here to view the course list](#)



Class Afloat

Open Acadia continues its long partnership with Class Afloat by providing select online courses for students (aged 16 to 19) to take while sailing the world's oceans aboard a majestic tall ship! This term's offerings include:

- Geology 1033 General Oceanography (Christa Pufahl)
- Psychology 1013 Introductory Psychology 1 (Daniel Lametti)
- Sociology 2853 The Sociology of Magic & Religion (Ann Marie Powers)
- Nutrition 2323 Food & People (Tristaca Curley)
- Economics 1023 Macroeconomic Principles (Brian Van Blarcom)

Spotlight on Online Course Development

The Certificate of Democratic Leadership Program: Experts have been busy working on the development of the first 4 of these online courses. Working closely with subject-matter experts, our instructional designers are supporting the development of an engaging, high-quality online learning experiences for this five-course, 15-credit program, which aims to build knowledge of ethical and effective political leadership. The certificate will be offered flexibly online and on campus and is part of a national network of Jarislowsky Chair programs that share a common foundational course while allowing Acadia to highlight its own experiential learning focus.



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