



FOR APPROVAL

PUBLIC

OPEN SESSION

TO: Committee on Academic Policy and Programs

SPONSOR: Professor Nicholas Rule, Vice-Provost, Academic Programs
CONTACT INFO: (416) 978-0490, vp.academicprograms@utoronto.ca

PRESENTER: Same as above
CONTACT INFO:

DATE: February 2, 2026 for February 10, 2026

AGENDA ITEM: 3 (b)

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Proposal to Change Petitions for Examinations Policy, Faculty of Arts and Science

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

The establishment, termination or major amendment of University-wide policies governing academic regulations are considered by the Committee and forwarded to the Academic Board for approval, for example, but not limited to, policies on academic appeal procedures and standards of professional practice behaviour for students in professional faculties. Minor amendments to University-wide policies may be approved by the Committee. Amendments to divisional academic regulations that will have a major affect in the division or that would require an exception to some element of University-wide policy are considered by the Committee for approval. (AP&P Terms of Reference, Section 4.3)

GOVERNANCE PATH:

- 1. Committee of Academic Policy and Programs [For Approval] (February 10, 2026)**

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

The Faculty of Arts and Science Faculty Council approved the proposal to change its Petitions for Examinations Policy on December 10, 2025.

HIGHLIGHTS:

The Faculty of Arts & Science proposes to modify its existing Petitions for Examination policy to address inconsistencies in the current policy. Under the existing framework,

students may petition for deferred exams and exam re-writes separately, and exam re-writes are not included within the at most two opportunities for students to write a deferred exam for the same course. This allows a rare, but possible, scenario through a combination of granted deferred exams and exam re-writes, a student could receive up to six opportunities to write a final exam for the same course. Additionally, petitions for exam re-writes have increased significantly in recent years, with approval rates declining from 74% in 2018–2019 to 39% in 2024–2025. This trend, coupled with the need for alignment across U of T divisions, prompted the proposed changes.

This proposal introduces a maximum of three opportunities for students to write an exam for the same course across all petition types, as outlined in the attached proposal, to clarify how the policy applies to online examinations, and to clarify the situations in which a student would be eligible to petition to re-write an exam. Finally, the proposal clarifies that by petitioning for an exam re-write, a student agrees to forfeit the original exam mark should the petition be granted: the re-written exam mark—whether higher or lower—will be used in the calculation of the student’s final mark in the course. Missing a scheduled re-write results in a zero on the exam.

The proposed changes to the policy will provide clarity and consistency in application of the policy, promote the timely resolution by students of outstanding academic obligations thereby minimizing prolonged academic uncertainty and support informed decision making while maintaining flexibility for genuine emergencies. The change will also bring Arts & Science in line with existing approaches at the University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM), and University of Toronto Scarborough (UTSC); aligning the petition practices across these three undergraduate divisions. Since students submit petitions to the division in which they are registered, rather than to the division offering the course for which they are petitioning, alignment across Arts & Science, UTM, and UTSC ensures consistency for students, no matter in which division they are registered and for which course they are submitting a petition.

Consultation outside the Faculty of Arts & Science occurred with UTM, UTSC, and the John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design. Feedback provided on the proposed Calendar text was incorporated in the proposal.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Any new financial obligations resulting from this change will be met at the divisional level.

RECOMMENDATION:

Be It Resolved:

THAT the proposed changes to Faculty of Arts and Science academic regulation, as described in the proposal from the Faculty of Arts and Science dated November 24, 2025, be approved effective September 1, 2026.

DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED:

- Proposal to Change Petitions for Examinations Policy, Faculty of Arts and Science



Proposal for the Creation of a New Policy/Calendar Statement or the Modification of an Existing Policy/Calendar Statement

Policy Name	Petitions for Examinations
Proponent	Lisa Feng, Faculty Registrar & Director, Academic Services Faculty of Arts & Science, University of Toronto
Version Date (Please change the date as you edit the proposal.)	November 24, 2025

Summary

Please provide a brief description of the policy or calendar statement being proposed/modified and the goals for the change.

Proposal for Consideration

In the Faculty of Arts & Science Academic Calendar, the [Petitions for Examinations](#) policy includes two types of petitions: petitions for deferred exams and petitions for exam re-writes. Faculty of Arts & Science students who miss a final exam may petition, with appropriate supporting documentation, to defer the exam. Students who attend an in-person exam or log into an online exam and subsequently formally abandon the exam due to extraordinary and unanticipated circumstances that started during the exam may petition, with appropriate supporting documentation, to re-write the exam.

During the 2024-2025 governance cycle, the Faculty of Arts & Science submitted a proposal, approved to be in effect as of September 1, 2025, to introduce [at most two opportunities](#) for Faculty of Arts & Science students to write a deferred exam for the same course, if granted by petition: a first deferral and a subsequent re-deferral. Students petitioning only for deferred exams for a course have up to three opportunities to write the exam: the original exam, a deferred exam, and a re-deferred exam. Since exam re-writes are not yet included within the maximum of two additional opportunities granted by petition for a student to write an exam for a course, it is possible – although it would rarely occur – that a student could be granted, by petition and with appropriate supporting documentation, up to six opportunities to write an exam for the same course: the original exam that the student formally abandons, a scheduled exam re-write that the student misses, a first deferred exam that the student formally abandons, a second scheduled exam re-write that the student also misses, a second deferred exam that the student formally abandons, and a third scheduled exam re-write.

The Faculty of Arts & Science is applying the principles established in the proposal approved during the 2024-2025 governance cycle to expand the maximum number of opportunities – three – for students to write an exam for the same course across all exam petition types (deferred exams, re-deferred exams, and exam re-writes). Students would therefore have the opportunity to write the original final exam (which includes exams rescheduled due to religious observances or scheduling conflicts) and, if relevant, at most two additional opportunities granted by petition, irrespective of the petition type (deferred exam, re-deferred exam, or exam re-write), based on appropriate supporting documentation.

If a student were to be granted by petition an exam re-write of the original exam, they would have at most one additional opportunity, granted by petition, to write the exam for the course:

- a first deferred exam were they to miss the scheduled re-write, or
- a second scheduled re-write were they to formally abandon the first exam re-write.

If a student were to be granted a first deferred exam after missing the original exam, they would have at most one additional opportunity, granted by petition, to write the exam for the course:

- a second deferred (re-deferred) exam were they to miss the first deferred exam, or
- an exam re-write were they to formally abandon the first deferred exam.

In addition, the proposal seeks to clarify in policy that

- Students who attend an in-person, or log into an online, exam are indicating their intention to complete the exam and may not petition to re-write it except under extraordinary and unanticipated circumstances that start during the exam.
 - The current policy states “Students who write an examination may not [petition to rewrite](#) it, except under extraordinary circumstances such as a sudden acute illness during the examination.”
- By submitting a petition to re-write an exam, a student is requesting that the exam that they began no longer be taken into consideration for the calculation of their final mark in the relevant course.
 - If the petition is denied, the student’s mark on the exam that they began will continue to contribute to the calculation of their final mark in the course.
 - If the petition is granted and the student re-writes the exam, the mark on the re-written exam – whether higher or lower than the mark on the exam that the student initially began – will be used in the calculation of the student’s final mark in the course.
 - If the petition is granted and the student misses the opportunity to re-write the exam, their final mark in the course will be calculated with a mark of zero on the final exam.

Goals

- To introduce a maximum number of opportunities – three – for a student to write an exam for the same course across all exam petition types, in order to support students in resolving in a timely manner, ideally within at most one year, a course for which they did not write or formally abandoned the original exam due to extenuating circumstances.

- To facilitate the ability of students who are unwell before an exam or otherwise unable to write an exam to make an informed decision about whether to attend or log into the exam, or to instead submit a petition to defer the exam, by clarifying in the policy that students who attend or log into an exam are indicating their intention to complete the exam.
- To clarify in policy that students who attend or log into an exam may not petition to re-write it except under extraordinary and unanticipated circumstances that start during – rather than were in existence before – the exam.
- To ensure that students are aware that, by submitting a petition to re-write an exam, they are requesting to forfeit the exam that they began and, if the petition is granted, their final mark in the course will be calculated based on the result of the scheduled exam re-write, including a mark of zero if they miss the exam.
- To align the Faculty of Arts & Science’s distinct petitions for exam re-writes policy with the way in which petitions for exam re-writes are managed at the University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM) and the University of Toronto Scarborough (UTSC).

Policy Statement or Calendar Language

<p>Current Text</p> <p><i>State the current policy statement or the current language as it appears in the Academic Calendar.</i></p>	<p>Proposed Text</p> <p><i>State the proposed policy statement or the proposed language as it would appear in the Academic Calendar.</i></p>
<p>https://artsci.calendar.utoronto.ca/petitions-and-appeals#types-petitions</p> <p>Petitions for Examinations</p> <p>Students are expected to write their examinations as scheduled. Petitions based on travel, employment, or personal plans will not be considered as students are expected to make themselves available during the published Examination Period to write final examinations. Students who cannot write a final examination at the scheduled time due to a religious obligation should report it to the Office of the Faculty Registrar once a Final Examination Schedule is posted, and no later than the published deadline. Instructions and deadlines can be found on the Exam Conflicts webpage.</p>	<p>(The Calendar text with proposed changes tracked is included as Appendix 1)</p> <p>Petitions for Examinations</p> <p>Students are expected to write their final examinations as scheduled. Petitions based on travel, employment, or personal plans will not be considered; students are expected to make themselves available during the published examination period.</p> <p>Students who cannot write a final examination at the scheduled time due to a religious observance should not submit a petition to defer the examination and should instead notify the Office of the Faculty Registrar no later than the published deadline.</p>

Deferred Examinations

In situations where a student is unable to write their final examination due to extenuating circumstances, they may request a deferral. A student who is too ill or otherwise unable to write the examination should submit a petition, with supporting documentation, for a deferred examination. When a petition for a [deferred examination](#) is granted, a notation of [SDF \(standing deferred\)](#) is added to the student's transcript in place of a final mark for the course. After a student has written the deferred examination, the SDF will be replaced with a final mark in the course.

Students have at most two opportunities to write a deferred examination for the same course. Students who miss their first opportunity to write a deferred examination may petition for a second opportunity to do so, however note that only under extenuating circumstances supported by appropriate documentation will a petition for a second deferral (a [re-deferral](#)) of the examination be considered. Students who miss a deferred examination will receive a mark of zero for the examination in the calculation of their final mark. Should a petition for a second deferral be granted, the notation of SDF will be re-added to the student's transcript for the course.

Students who, having been granted a second opportunity to write their deferred exam, miss the opportunity to do so are advised to contact their [College Registrar's Office](#) to discuss their situation and engage in academic planning. The SDF for the course on their transcript will be replaced by a final mark that includes a mark of zero for the examination.

Examination Re-Writes for In-Person Final Exams

Students who write an examination may not [petition to rewrite](#) it, except under extraordinary circumstances such as a sudden acute illness during the examination.

When a petition to re-write an examination is granted, a notation of SDF (standing deferred) is added to the transcript in place of a final mark for the course. After a student has written the examination,

Students have at most three opportunities to write an examination for the same course: the original final examination and at most two additional opportunities granted by petition (deferred examination, re-deferred examination, and/or examination re-write) based on appropriate supporting documentation.

When a petition for an examination is granted, a notation of [SDF \(standing deferred\)](#) is added to a student's transcript in place of a final mark for the course. After the student has written the examination, the SDF will be replaced with a final mark in the course calculated using the mark on the examination. If the student misses the examination, the SDF will be replaced with a final mark in the course calculated using a mark of zero for the examination.

Students who miss or formally abandon a third opportunity to write an examination granted by petition are advised to contact their [College Registrar's Office](#) to discuss their situation and engage in academic planning.

It is important to note that the parameters for petitions for deferred examinations and for petitions for examination re-writes are different. By attending an in-person examination or logging into an online examination, a student is indicating their intention to complete the examination and is not eligible to submit a petition for a deferral.

Deferred Examinations

In situations where a student is unable to write an examination due to extenuating circumstances, they may request a deferral. A student who is too ill or otherwise unable to write the examination should not attend or log into the examination and should instead submit a petition, with supporting documentation, for a [deferred examination](#).

If a granted deferred examination is a student's second opportunity to write the examination for the course and they miss the opportunity to do so, they may petition for a [re-deferral](#) (second deferral) of the examination, however note that only under

the SDF will be replaced with a final mark in the course.

Examination Re-Writes for Online Final Exams
Students who encounter extenuating circumstances during an online final exam should immediately contact their course instructor and follow the instructions they provide.

[content excerpted]

extenuating circumstances supported by appropriate documentation will the petition be considered.

Examination Re-Writes

Students who attend an in-person, or log into an online, examination are indicating their intention to complete the examination. They therefore may not petition to re-write it, except under extraordinary and unanticipated circumstances that start during the examination such as a significant sudden acute illness, sudden and unresolvable computer or technical issues, or a major disruption, after which a student [formally abandons](#) the examination.

By submitting a [petition to re-write an examination](#), a student is requesting that the examination that they began no longer be taken into consideration for the calculation of their final mark in the course, and is acknowledging that, should the petition be granted, their final mark in the course will be calculated based on the re-written examination, whether the mark is higher or lower than that on the examination that they originally began.

If the petition is denied, the student's final mark in the course will be calculated based on their mark on the examination that they originally began. If the petition is granted and the student misses the scheduled examination re-write, their final mark in the course will be calculated with a mark of zero for the final examination.

Petitions to re-write an examination require [specific supporting documentation](#).

Rationale or Case for Action

You may wish to speak to when the policy or calendar statement was first created or last modified; past success/failure of the policy being modified. What has led to the decision to propose/modify the policy or calendar statement? Where appropriate, include relevant metrics and/or explain alignment with the division's academic plan.

Faculty of Arts & Science students who miss a final exam may petition, with appropriate supporting documentation, to defer the exam. Students who attend an in-person exam or log into an online exam, whether the original exam or a deferred exam, may only petition to re-write it under extraordinary and unanticipated circumstances that start during the exam such as a significant and sudden acute illness, unresolvable computer or technical issues, or a major disruption, after which a student formally abandons the exam.

If a student needs to abandon an exam due to a significant and sudden acute illness, they are expected to immediately notify the Chief Presiding Officer (CPO) for an in-person exam, or their instructor by email for an online exam, and to promptly leave to seek medical attention. If a student needs to abandon an online exam due to unresolved computer or technical issues or a major disruption, they are expected to immediately notify their instructor by email. Having formally abandoned an exam, a student may petition within three business days from the date of the exam to re-write the exam, with [specific supporting documentation](#) that provides context for the exam abandonment.

During the 2024-2025 governance cycle, the Faculty of Arts & Science submitted a proposal, approved to be in effect as of September 1, 2025, to introduce [at most two opportunities](#) for Faculty of Arts & Science students to write a deferred exam for the same course, if granted by petition: a first deferral and a subsequent re-deferral. Students petitioning only for deferred exams for a course have up to three opportunities to write the exam: the original exam, a deferred exam, and a re-deferred exam. Since exam re-writes are not yet included within the maximum of two additional opportunities granted by petition for a student to write an exam for a course, it is possible – although it would rarely occur – that a student could be granted, by petition and with appropriate supporting documentation, up to six opportunities to write an exam for the same course: the original exam that the student formally abandons, a scheduled exam re-write that the student misses, a first deferred exam that the student formally abandons, a second scheduled exam re-write that the student also misses, a second deferred exam that the student formally abandons, and a third scheduled exam re-write.

The Faculty has noted a significant increase in petitions and first appeals for exam re-writes in the last several years, with the exception of the timeframe during the pandemic during which in-person Faculty final exams were not held (Table 1).

Table 1: Petition and first appeal counts as reported to Arts & Science Council. The data provided for each timeframe is from July 1 to June 30, except for 2018-2019, for which the timeframe is November 12, 2018, to June 30, 2019. The number of requests reflect individual 'asks' rather than the number of petitions, since one petition or first-level appeal can contain multiple asks. Note that in-person Faculty final exams were not held during the pandemic, from the Winter 2020 term to the end of the Summer 2021 session. In 2022-2023, a new 'Undecided' category was included in the numbers reported; for consistency with previous years, these numbers have been excluded from the table and comprise, for 2022-2023, 2023-2024, and 2024-2025, the difference between the overall total number of requests and the total of the categories listed.

Petition Type	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
Exam Re-write							
Total # of requests	151	200	17	160	423	440	327
Granted	112	148	11	76	148	178	126
Denied	27	48	6	72	228	220	101
Cancelled/Not Considered	12	4	0	12	34	16	11
Percentage granted	74%	74%	65%	48%	35%	40%	39%
Percentage denied	18%	24%	35%	45%	54%	50%	31%
Percentage cancelled/not considered	8%	2%	0%	8%	8%	4%	3%

The Faculty of Arts & Science is applying the principles established in the proposal approved during the 2024-2025 governance cycle to expand the maximum number of opportunities – three – for students to write an exam for the same course across all exam petition types (deferred exams, re-deferred exams, and exam re-writes). Students would therefore have the opportunity to write the original final exam (which includes exams rescheduled due to religious observances or scheduling conflicts) and, if relevant, at most two additional opportunities granted by petition, irrespective of petition type (deferred exam, re-deferred exam, or exam re-write), based on appropriate supporting documentation.

Incorporating exam re-writes into the maximum of two opportunities that can be granted by petition for a student to write an exam for the same course will ensure consistency across all exam petition types and will support students in resolving in a timely manner, ideally within at most one year, a course for which they did not write or formally abandoned the originally scheduled exam.

Clarifying in policy that students who attend or log into – rather than who write – an exam may not petition to re-write it except under extraordinary and unanticipated circumstances that start during – rather than were in existence before – the exam sets clear parameters for students. These parameters will facilitate their ability to make an informed decision about whether to attend the exam or, based on their personal circumstances, to instead submit a petition to defer the exam.

In addition, clarifying that by submitting a petition to re-write an exam, a student is requesting to forfeit the exam that they began – that is, that the exam that they began no longer be taken into consideration for the calculation of their final mark in the relevant course – ensures that students are aware in advance of the implications of such a petition being granted.

Impact and Implementation of Proposed Change(s)

Indicate the positive and negative implications that need to be considered in the creation/modification of the policy or calendar statement. State the impact of the creation/modification of policy or calendar statement on the divisional student experience as well as potential effects on other University of Toronto divisions.

Students who miss their third and final opportunity to write an exam for the same course are advised to contact their College Registrar's Office to discuss their situation and engage in academic planning. Depending upon each student's individual circumstances and any supporting documentation that they provide to their College Registrar's Office that speaks to the timeframe of the missed exam, the options that might be available to them would vary and might include a [Late Withdrawal After the Drop Date \(LWD\)](#) from the course or a petition for [Withdrawal Without Academic Penalty \(WDR\)](#) from the course. Only in extenuating circumstances supported by appropriate documentation, including the recommendation of the College Registrar, would a fourth opportunity to write the exam be considered. In the absence of appropriate documentation to support a student missing their third opportunity to write an exam for the same course, a student may receive a mark of zero on the final exam.

Students who formally abandon their third and final opportunity to write an exam for the same course are also advised to contact their College Registrar's Office to discuss their situation and engage in academic planning. Only in extenuating circumstances supported by appropriate documentation, including the recommendation of the College Registrar, would a petition to re-write the exam be considered.

UTM and UTSC do not list exam re-writes as a separate petition type and they are instead referenced within the petitions for deferred exams policies of each division.

The [petitions for deferred exams policy](#) in the 2025-2026 UTM Academic Calendar states:

"Students cannot re-write an examination that they have already attempted."

The [petitions for deferred exams policy](#) in the 2025-2026 UTSC Academic Calendar states:

"Students who choose to write an examination may not petition to rewrite it, except in circumstances such as a significant illness that suddenly manifests itself during an examination. In this instance, the claim of illness requires both corroborations from the examination invigilator and documentation from a health care professional."

It is important to note, however, that at both UTM and UTSC, students submit petitions for deferred exams that are in fact petitions for exam re-writes. Since the petitions are being submitted as if they are for deferred exams, in the exceptional instance where a petition to re-write an exam were to be approved for a UTM or UTSC student, the scheduled exam re-write would already be incorporated within the at most two opportunities for students to write a deferred exam for the same course, a policy in effect as of September 1, 2025, at UTM and UTSC as well as in the Faculty of Arts & Science. The introduction in the Faculty of Arts & Science of at most three opportunities across all exam petition types for Faculty of Arts & Science students to write an exam for the same course therefore brings the Faculty's distinct exam re-write policy into alignment with the existing maximum number of opportunities for UTM and UTSC students to write an exam for the same course.

Consultation Undertaken

Please provide evidence of consultation with any stakeholders (e.g., students, staff, faculty members, alumni, U of T divisions, third-party stakeholders if applicable) to be affected by the creation/modification of policy or calendar statement. Indicate how stakeholders will be notified of the proposed/modified policy or calendar statement following approval.

Consultation within the Faculty of Arts & Science

September 3, 2025: Presentation at the Faculty Management Team (FMT) meeting; support was expressed for the proposal.

September 3, 2025: Presentation to the College Registrars; support was expressed for the proposal.

September 22, 2025: Presentation shared with the Association of Part-Time Undergraduate Students (APUS); no concerns were expressed by this stakeholder group.

September 25, 2025: Presentation to the Arts & Science Registrarial Collaboration Committee (ARCC), the members of which include advisors in College Registrar's Offices. Feedback was provided about ensuring consistent messaging for students about attending an in-person, or logging into an online, exam in the context of the petitions for re-writes policy, including in advance of the final exam period.

September 25, 2025: Presentation at the Arts & Science Communication & Consultation (C&C) meeting, the participants in which include advisors in College Registrar's Offices, departmental administrators, Associate Chairs, Undergraduate, and colleagues from Rotman Commerce; no concerns were expressed about the proposal.

September 26 and October 10, 2025: Presentation to, and discussion with, the Arts & Science Students' Union (ASSU). Support was expressed for the proposal, and feedback provided about the proposed Calendar text was incorporated in the proposal.

October 9, 2025: Presentation to the [Committee on Standing](#); support was expressed for the proposal.

October 9, 2025: Presentation at a meeting with Associate Chairs, Undergraduate; support was expressed for the proposal.

Across the University

The Faculty of Arts & Science's proposal was shared with the Registrars of, and registrarial colleagues at, UTM, UTSC, and the John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design on September 4, 2025. Feedback provided about the proposed Calendar text was incorporated in the proposal.

Policy Implementation

Please indicate when the proposed/modified policy or calendar statement will go into effect as well as where and how this will be implemented.

Effective Date

Pending the relevant governance approval, the proposed modifications to the [Petitions for Examinations](#) policy will go into effect for all Faculty of Arts & Science students as of September 1, 2026, with the publication of the 2026-2027 Academic Calendar in May 2026.

For students granted an exam re-write from a previous term scheduled to be written in September 2026 or later who miss the exam and subsequently submit a petition to defer the exam, the petition will be considered within the existing policy providing at most two opportunities for a student to write a deferred exam for the same course.

For students granted an exam re-write or a deferred or re-deferred exam from a previous term scheduled to be written in September 2026 or later who formally abandon the exam and subsequently submit a petition for an exam re-write, the petition would be considered, pending governance approval, within the modified policy providing at most two opportunities for a student to write an exam granted by petition for the same course.

Implementation Timeline

Pending governance approval, petitions granted for exam re-writes for the Fall/Winter 2026-2027 session and on a going-forward basis will contribute to, at most, three opportunities for students to write an exam for the same course, and the Petitions System will be updated to include exam re-writes in the number of opportunities granted.

The communication plan, pending approval, is:

- The modified policy will be published in the 2026-2027 Faculty of Arts & Science Academic Calendar and will be referenced in the Policy and Other Changes page in the Calendar.
- The [Faculty of Arts & Science website](#) will be updated as well as the relevant knowledge base articles in the Student Advising Service.
- The [Exam Toolkit](#) will be updated.
- Advanced notice of the change in policy will be provided via the Arts & Science Academic Advising Community Teams channel, to assist all stakeholders with providing consistent responses to student inquiries.
- Notice of the change in policy will be provided to students via the eNews, an email sent monthly to all Faculty of Arts & Science students.
- Signage will be posted outside of exam rooms to clarify that by entering the exam room, students are indicating their intention to complete the exam.

Consultation/Governance Pathway

Steps/Stakeholders	Date(s) of Sign-offs/Approvals
Office of the Faculty Registrar, Faculty of Arts & Science	September 3, 2025
Office of the Dean, Faculty of Arts & Science	September 3, 2025
VPAP Sign-off	October 24, 2025
Arts & Science Council	December 10, 2025 (for approval)
University of Toronto Committee on Academic Policy and Programs	February 10, 2026 (for approval)

Appendix 1

Proposed changes to Calendar text – 2025-2026 Faculty of Arts & Science Academic Calendar

(<https://artsci.calendar.utoronto.ca/petitions-and-appeals#types-petitions>)

Petitions for Examinations

Students are expected to write their final examinations as scheduled. Petitions based on travel, employment, or personal plans will not be considered; ~~as~~ students are expected to make themselves available during the published eExamination pPeriod to write final examinations.

Students who cannot write a final examination at the scheduled time due to a religious obligation observance should not submit a petition to defer the examination and should instead report it to notify the Office of the Faculty Registrar once a Final Examination Schedule is posted, and no later than the published deadline. Instructions and deadlines can be found on the Exam Conflicts webpage.

Students have at most three opportunities to write an examination for the same course: the original final examination and at most two additional opportunities granted by petition (deferred examination, re-deferred examination, and/or examination re-write) based on appropriate supporting documentation.

When a petition for an examination is granted, a notation of SDF (standing deferred) is added to a student's transcript in place of a final mark for the course. After the student has written the examination, the SDF will be replaced with a final mark in the course calculated using the mark on the examination. If the student misses the examination, the SDF will be replaced with a final mark in the course calculated using a mark of zero for the examination.

Students who, having been granted by petition a third opportunity to write an examination, miss or formally abandon the opportunity to do so are advised to contact their College Registrar's Office to discuss their situation and engage in academic planning.

It is important to note that the parameters for petitions for deferred examinations and for petitions for examination re-writes are different. By attending an in-person examination or logging into an online examination, a student is indicating their intention to complete the examination and is not eligible to submit a petition for a deferral.

Deferred Examinations

In situations where a student is unable to write their final-an examination due to extenuating circumstances, they may request a deferral. A student who is too ill or otherwise unable to write the examination should not attend or log into the examination and should instead submit a petition, with supporting documentation, for a deferred examination. When a petition for a deferred examination is granted, a notation of SDF (standing deferred) is added to the student's transcript in place of a final mark for the course. After a student has written the deferred examination, the SDF will be replaced with a final mark in the course.

If a granted deferred examination is a student's second opportunity to write the examination for the course and they miss the opportunity to do so, they may petition for second deferral (a re-deferral) of the examination, - Students have at most two opportunities to write a deferred examination for the same course. Students who miss their first opportunity to write a deferred examination may petition for a second opportunity to do so,

however note that only under extenuating circumstances supported by appropriate documentation will ~~a the petition for a second deferral (a re-deferral) of the examination~~ be considered. ~~Students who miss a deferred examination will receive a mark of zero for the examination in the calculation of their final mark. Should a petition for a second deferral be granted, the notation of SDF will be re-added to the student's transcript for the course.~~

~~Students who, having been granted a second opportunity to write their deferred exam, miss the opportunity to do so are advised to contact their College Registrar's Office to discuss their situation and engage in academic planning. The SDF for the course on their transcript will be replaced by a final mark that includes a mark of zero for the examination.~~

Examination Re-Writes for In Person Final Exams

Students who ~~attend an in-person, or log into an online, examination~~ are indicating their intention to complete ~~the write an~~ Examination. ~~They therefore~~ may not petition to re-write it, except under extraordinary ~~and unanticipated~~ circumstances ~~that start during the examination~~ such as a ~~significant~~ sudden acute illness, ~~sudden and unresolvable computer or technical issues, during the examination~~ or a major disruption, after which a student ~~formally abandons the examination.~~

~~By submitting a petition to re-write an examination, a student is requesting that the examination that they began no longer be taken into consideration for the calculation of their final mark in the course, and is acknowledging that, should the petition be granted, their final mark in the course will be calculated based on the re-written examination, whether the mark is higher or lower than that on the examination that they originally began.~~

~~If the petition is denied, the student's final mark in the course will be calculated based on their mark on the examination that they originally began. If the petition is granted and the student misses the scheduled examination re-write, their final mark in the course will be calculated with a mark of zero for the final examination.~~

~~Petitions to re-write an examination require specific supporting documentation.~~

~~When a petition to re-write an examination is granted, a notation of SDF (standing deferred) is added to the transcript in place of a final mark for the course. After a student has written the examination, the SDF will be replaced with a final mark in the course.~~

Examination Re-Writes for Online Final Exams

~~Students who encounter extenuating circumstances during an online final exam should immediately contact their course instructor and follow the instructions they provide.~~

[content excerpted]