

23-06-2021

Dear Students in the Faculty of Business & Management Sciences

This communication is only intended for Postgraduate and Undergraduate students in the Faculty of Business & Management Sciences.

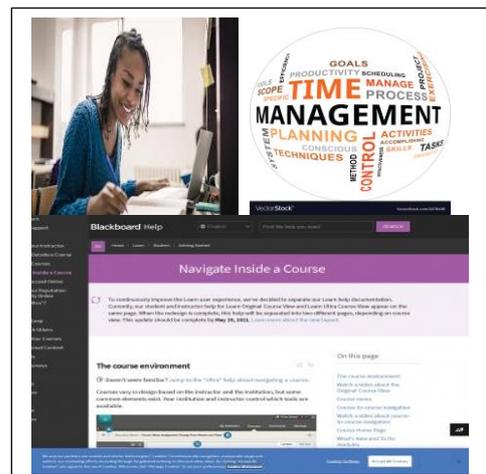
The first semester of 2021 has passed by rather swiftly. We trust that you have all been well during this time and that your learning journey to date has been eventful, exciting and successful.

The staggered start to the year meant that some student groups such as first year undergraduate students commenced the academic year on 16 March 2021, which resulted in a shorter than usual semester. The online learning space might have been challenging for first year students who were new to higher education, but this soon abated with tutorial videos on how to use Blackboard and Orientation 2021 focusing mainly on remote learning. Teaching, learning and assessment for all student groups were intense and purposeful to ensure that curriculum implementation would not be compromised. Academic staff made every effort to support students, and the appointment of Tutors, Mentors, Teaching Assistants and Retention Officers provided additional support as required.

Research support was offered to the postgraduate students through planned workshops via Blackboard for new and returning students. A series of workshops on proposal development, student development for research, HDC Digital, academic writing, funding considerations and writing for publication were presented, while the postgraduate cohort continued with supervisor support and their own controlled learning.

Similarly, the faculty's first postgraduate diploma commenced on 16 March 2021. The first cohort of students for the Postgraduate Diploma in Marketing were introduced to an intensive first semester programme of lectures and tasks requiring self-regulated learning as expected of Level 8 students.

Although departments planned for certain on-campus face-to-face classes, this was not always possible given the continued presence of COVID-19 and the concern of the imminent third wave. Students have different learning styles – while some students are able to learn in isolation, others need a social face-to-face environment with tutorials, lecturer support and peer support. This will resume when the necessary permission is granted, and it is safe for students and lecturers to interact on campus. Until then, students are reminded to be diligent and conscientious, practice good time management, attend all classes regularly and ensure that all assessments are completed in good time. One of the expectations of being a student is to take ownership of learning, i.e. to take responsibility for academic progress and success which starts with regular class attendance. Blackboard subject files contain lecture notes, worksheets and formative assessments which have been designed to consolidate subject content and support student learning. Being the end of Semester 1, this is a good time to reflect on personal learning



habits, whether the desired progress has been made and what needs to change in Semester 2. List these changes and make a conscious effort to work towards academic success for promotion to the next year of study.

It is important to consider holistic well-being as an integral part of your academic career. Remote learning can be quite demanding on the psyche and it is, therefore, important to maintain a healthy mental state. If studies or personal circumstances seem overwhelming, students are encouraged to consult student counselling services where trained psychologists will ably assist as and when they can.

Email: Student-Counselling@cput.ac.za

Enjoy a pleasant mid-year recess. Mask up, wash your hands regularly and maintain physical distancing.

Thank you, Enkosi, Baie Dankie!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P. Green', written in a cursive style.

Prof Paul Green
Dean: Faculty of Business & Management Sciences