Communiqué from the Dean
TEACHING AND LEARNING

INSPIRING GREATNESS
This communique serves to provide information about the remote online teaching and learning global test that has become known as the dry-run, and to outline how it will be performed in the College of Health Sciences. The Dry-run will officially kickoff on Monday, the 18th of May 2020 and finish on the 29th of May 2020. The last week of the Dry-run will be characterized by mock online assessments and student and staff surveys for feedback on their participation in the Dry-run.

Programmes to participate in the Dry-run

The intention is to have all levels of the undergraduate programmes and the taught modules of postgraduate programmes to fully participate during the Dry-run. This will ensure that the main principle of leaving no student and staff behind towards online teaching and learning is upheld. All staff and students are therefore requested to participate in the dry-run and related surveys on feedback on the implementation of the dry-run.
Purpose of the Dry-run

The purpose of the Dry-run is to determine the University’s preparedness for online teaching and learning and assessments prior to the official launch of online teaching and learning programme on the 1st of June 2020. The Dry-run will assist in the preparation of students and staff for the use of various forms of teaching, learning and assessments that form part of the remote online teaching and learning plan. It will help in determining the connectivity, functionality of different types of devices that our students are using for access to online teaching and learning. It will further test students’ access through logins to system resources, learning materials, and live learning activities. The dry-run will also test downloads and uploads by students and staff, to determine gaps to be addressed as we move fully into online teaching and learning.
Principles underpinning the Dry-run

- Main principle is leaving no student and no staff behind.

- A standard time table that allows appropriate workload for student-centered online learning activities and full engagement with online materials.

- Moodle remains the main Content Management System. Zoom and other video conferencing platforms used for all live remote teaching and learning may be recorded for the benefit of the students who do not have online connectivity.

- Only modules and learning material which are already uploaded can be used during the dry-run to limit introduction of new material.

- Clear instructions and learning outcomes should be provided to all students for their full participation.

- Promotion of active student-centered engagement accompanied by structured but limited academic interaction.

- Monitoring of student attendance to determine the number of students participation during the dry-run. This will assist in determining the need for provision of alternative methods, such as delivery of printed paper course packs or teaching and learning packages and pre-loaded USBs, for teaching and learning for those students who are unable to participate in online learning activities.

- The mock assessments conducted during the week of the 25th May 2020 do not contribute towards a final mark. However, it is requested that all students attempt all mock assessments set for individual modules for practical learning purposes.
UKZN has adopted blended learning and flipped classroom approach as a digital pedagogy for online teaching and learning. As such, the process described in Figure 1 is proposed.
Support during the Dry-Run

Each School has identified Online Teaching and Learning Champions to provide support to staff who may need assistance with online teaching related issues. Academic Leaders of Teaching and Learning can be contacted for the names and contact details. Students who need technical support for logins should be supported at Discipline level whenever possible. ICS may be contacted for specific technical issues.

Monitoring during the Dry-run

The office of the Dean of Teaching and Learning and the School Academic Leaders of Teaching and Learning and Discipline Heads will be responsible for monitoring of the implementation of the dry-run.
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Teaching and Learning