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February 2021 Blog

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Time to look ahead

I don't know about you but for me, the online university year has just flown by. Here we are nearing the end of February, which means just over a month left till exams (don't mean to panic you). No doubt you are speeding through assignment piles, group projects, mid-terms, and hopefully utilising reading week to get ahead in all your readings. Whether you are a seasoned pro or new to university, one thing is for sure, we are all definitely (STILL) in this together.

For some mature students, this term has been more of a challenge with school closures. I know I completely dreaded my first zoom lecture back in January because it was due to clash with my Grade 2 and Senior Kindergartener's Google meet classes, what could possibly go wrong? Let's just say, I never want to repeat the experience of sitting uncomfortably at our base (the dining room table), listening and (trying) to take notes on contemporary communication theories whilst also making exaggerated hand gestures at the youngest that his teacher was asking him something and he was still on mute and a second later helping the eldest to type some text into Google slides and navigate across multiple browser tabs (are 7-year-olds supposed to know that?!) So now, they are finally in school...they are happy, I am happy (I finally sat through a full lecture and took a full set of notes) and our electricity bill and snack bill may start to go down now!

Of course, many kids have not gone back yet or maybe you just decided not to send them at all and finding all the school/work/life balance a little bit challenging. There is a lot to think about at once, but there is a lot of support and resources that are being offered to you, I hope that it makes the transition to next year so much easier.

Firstly, if you are a student-parent, there is a social virtual get together and a great workshop happening this month: [Student-Parents' Get Together \(17 Feb 11am-12pm\)](#) and

[Student-Parents: Building Resiliency During the Pandemic workshop \(24 Feb 10:30-11:30\)](#). For all our mature, part-time and transfer students, ACMAPS is also holding regular [Mindful Mediation](#) sessions to help you take a moment to yourself as well as [Café Hour](#) sessions with a special edition focusing on Study Tips on Feb 25th.

From a planning perspective, whatever your program, my top tips for this time of year (from personal experience) are:

- Look at your [Degree Progress Report](#).
- Have a look at what your requirements are for the upcoming academic year.
- If you are unclear, talk to your program's [academic advisors](#) for program specific questions.
- ACMAPS [Mature Student Mentors](#) are also here during the [Café Hours](#) or via appointment to help you succeed at York by helping you to navigate services, help with study tips, point you in the right direction or just have a chat!
- Consider taking one or two courses during the summer. I took 6 credits worth of electives last summer (all online since campus was closed) and it really helped to ease the workload for this year. If any of your major subjects are available during the summer, this might be an option, but for me there was not much choice last year!
- You can find your enrollment date for Summer semester on your [Student Web Services](#). This will help you plan ahead and not miss your spot on the course at the last minute if you do want to enrol.
- Check out the courses being offered on the [York Courses Web Site](#) (you will need to log on with Passport York).

On a final note, if you haven't already done so, feel free to connect with YUMSO ([York University Mature Students Organization](#)). A social club to help you connect with other students on your program, ask questions or just rant. Check out the Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/YUMSO>. There is even a mature students' [WhatsApp Group](#) set up.

So, till next time, stay safe and stay well!

<https://acmaps.info.yorku.ca/events/>

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