

Accessible Course Practices Campaign

The pandemic has forced all of us to adapt to a new normal and the transition from in-person learning to online learning has not been easy for students and professors alike. Though, over the past year lecture recordings have been a big help in accommodating international and domestic students alike through these unprecedented times. Lecture recordings have genuinely enhanced learning for so many students, making the merits of this practice apparent to all. We believe that traditional practices employed in lectures need to be modified to accommodate alternate methods of teaching as well. The Accessible Course Practices Campaign aims to make recording of lectures a standard practice not only in the coming term but all future terms, for the following reasons:

- Despite a comprehensive return-to-campus plan launched by SFU, a majority of the student body is anxious to go back to campus. Especially from the fear of being amidst the third wave of Covid-19 as well as its variants
- The student body at SFU is very diverse; some of us hold a full-time job, some of us are parents and some have various other commitments alongside our education. If lecture recordings were made available to these students, it would make them more likely to succeed in their classes
- If a student were to miss several classes due to illness or other extenuating circumstances, the lecture recordings could help them catch up without having to rely on their classmates for help.
- Providing lecture recordings would also relieve some of the burden that instructors face trying to accommodate a variety of students

In order for this change to take place, there are IT services and other technological resources available that will be sufficient to either record lecture audio or video. Professors can choose to offer audio or video recording based on their comfort level. We believe that any form of alternative would be immensely helpful in enhancing the accessibility of education at SFU.

The campaign also recognizes the importance of appreciating instructors who are in support and will be making lecture recordings available for their



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students. We are currently looking for ways to incentivize instructors for their labor and making sure to protect them from exploitation over their intellectual property.

As a community dedicated to promoting learning and accessibility for all, it is essential for us to commit to this change. It would be one of the steps in the right direction to make lecture recordings available. The Campaign hopes to see this practice standardized across all SFU faculties.