

Exam Information for Vista Virtual School Students

Greetings students and families,

As we enter a second week of social isolation, we hope that you and your family are remaining safe and healthy, and following the advice of Alberta Health Services. Exams are an area for which we have received a significant number of inquiries and we continue to direct students to speak to their teachers about school based exams.

We know Diploma Exam courses, in particular, are quite stressful, and your questions about how they are being handled has, perhaps, added to that stress. Fortunately, Alberta Education's Diploma Exams Director has clarified the expectations of students in Diploma Exam courses.

Students who need a myPass account to register for Diploma Exams should email vvsupport@pembinahills.ca for directions to obtain an account.

School-Aged Students

For school-aged students currently registered in a diploma-level course:

In order to qualify for exemptions from April Diploma Exams

Students who are currently registered in myPass for April Diploma Exams, and have their course completed (**including course final exams**) BEFORE April 9, being sure to allow for time to mark assignments & exams, will receive an exemption for the April Diploma Exam.

In order to qualify for exemptions from June Diploma Exams:

1. Students MUST be registered for the June Diploma Exams by **April 9** using the myPass system.
 - a. Vista Virtual School students in Diploma Exam-level courses, who have not already registered, are asked to register in myPass for either the Edmonton (code S.1682) or Calgary (code S.1558) School Writing Centres, whichever is closer, with Principal, Mike Loitz as the authorizing individual.
2. Students MUST have **completed** their course (**contact your teacher about the school mid-term & final exams for your course**) and have a mark reported to Alberta Education by June 22. This means, in our distance setting, students must have

completed their course well BEFORE June 22 to provide time for marking - the earlier, the better - and should ask their teacher for guidance on completion dates.

Students who meet these criteria will receive an automatic exemption from the appropriate Diploma Exam, no further paperwork will be required. Students who do not meet these criteria can expect to be writing August Diploma Exams

Diploma Exam Rewrites

For school-aged and adult students currently registered for diploma exams:

Students who planned to rewrite diploma exams and registered for them in April or June will receive an exemption from the diploma exam, ONLY if a new school-awarded mark for the April or June terms has been submitted by the deadlines noted above. The new school-awarded mark will be the final course mark. Students who paid a rewrite fee for April or June diploma exams will receive a refund.

Students looking to ONLY rewrite exams will need to register for August Diploma Exams for rewrites.

Adult Students

For adult students who are currently registered in a diploma-level course:

In order to qualify for exemptions from April Diploma Exams

Students who are currently registered in myPass for April Diploma Exams, and have their course completed (**including course final exams**) BEFORE April 9, being sure to allow for time to mark assignments & exams, will receive an exemption for the April Diploma Exam.

In order to qualify for exemptions from June Diploma Exams:

1. Students MUST be registered for the June Diploma Exams by **April 9** using the myPass system.
 - a. Vista Virtual School students in Diploma Exam-level courses, who have not already registered, are asked to register in myPass for either the Edmonton (code S.1682) or Calgary (code S.1558) School Writing Centres, whichever is closer, with Principal, Mike Loitz as the authorizing individual.
2. Students MUST have **completed** their course (**contact your teacher about the school mid-term & final exams for your course**) and have a mark reported to Alberta

Education by June 22. This means, in our distance setting, students must have completed their course well BEFORE June 22 - the earlier, the better - and should ask their teacher for guidance on completion dates.

Students who meet these criteria will receive an automatic exemption from the appropriate Diploma Exam, no further paperwork will be required. Adult students who do not meet these criteria can be expecting to write August Diploma Exams.

For adult students who plan to challenge a diploma-level course:

Students with mature student status may challenge diploma exams without taking the course. These students cannot be exempted from a diploma exam, as they do not have a school-awarded course mark. Alberta Education will work with school authorities to review requests to write April and/or June diploma exams and establish suitable writing centre logistics.

These adult students can also attempt to register at one of the provincial writing centres (ex: SAIT - Southern Alberta Institute of Technology in Calgary or Bonaventure Gate in Edmonton). Then, they must contact Alberta Education.

Students in Grades 1-9

Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs) have been cancelled for the 2019-2020 school year by Alberta Education.

Continue working diligently on all of your courses and submitting the assignments regularly. Please do not bulk submit assignments. If needed, contact your teacher for further information regarding supervised midterm and final exams if you have not already heard from them.