

Centennial College

With a novel coronavirus pandemic spreading rapidly, Toronto's Centennial College worked nimbly and collaboratively to shift its curriculum online within a week of the provincial order to shut down on March 17. Faculty, administrators and IT staff expended tremendous effort to pivot to the new delivery model posthaste.

Centennial invited professional vendors to help shape the curriculum with our faculty subject experts to ensure students would have an enhanced learning experience online. By summer, 23 full-time programs were developed to meet the flexibility of global time zones while maintaining engagement and interaction with fellow classmates and professors.

By fall 2020, the college had a total of 50 programs developed for complete online delivery. All other programming continued to be offered through online or hybrid delivery where possible, with an expectation to return to in-class instruction once campuses fully reopen. Centennial invested heavily in curriculum development to ensure online learning is flexible, interactive and experiential.

Knowing that vulnerable students don't always have up-to-date technology, the college acted quickly to secure 5,000 Chromebooks from a U.S. supplier so that the laptops could be loaned to learners in need at no cost. Despite extraordinary demand for the computers from institutions across North America, Centennial delivered the devices within weeks to ensure its students could resume their studies virtually.

At the same time, the Centennial COVID-19 Relief Bursary was established to support students who are struggling with urgent financial needs during the pandemic. It provides both domestic and international students with emergency funds to pay for essentials such as food and housing. It also pays for internet services to facilitate online learning for those students who don't have access at home.

Prioritizing how we work, while being acutely aware of the personal and professional challenges faced by our colleagues and our students in a disruptive time, allows us to plot our course and evaluate our progress through the pandemic and the new reality that awaits us. Centennial's community of learners wouldn't have it any other way.



Learn more at: [centennialcollege.ca](https://www.centennialcollege.ca)

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