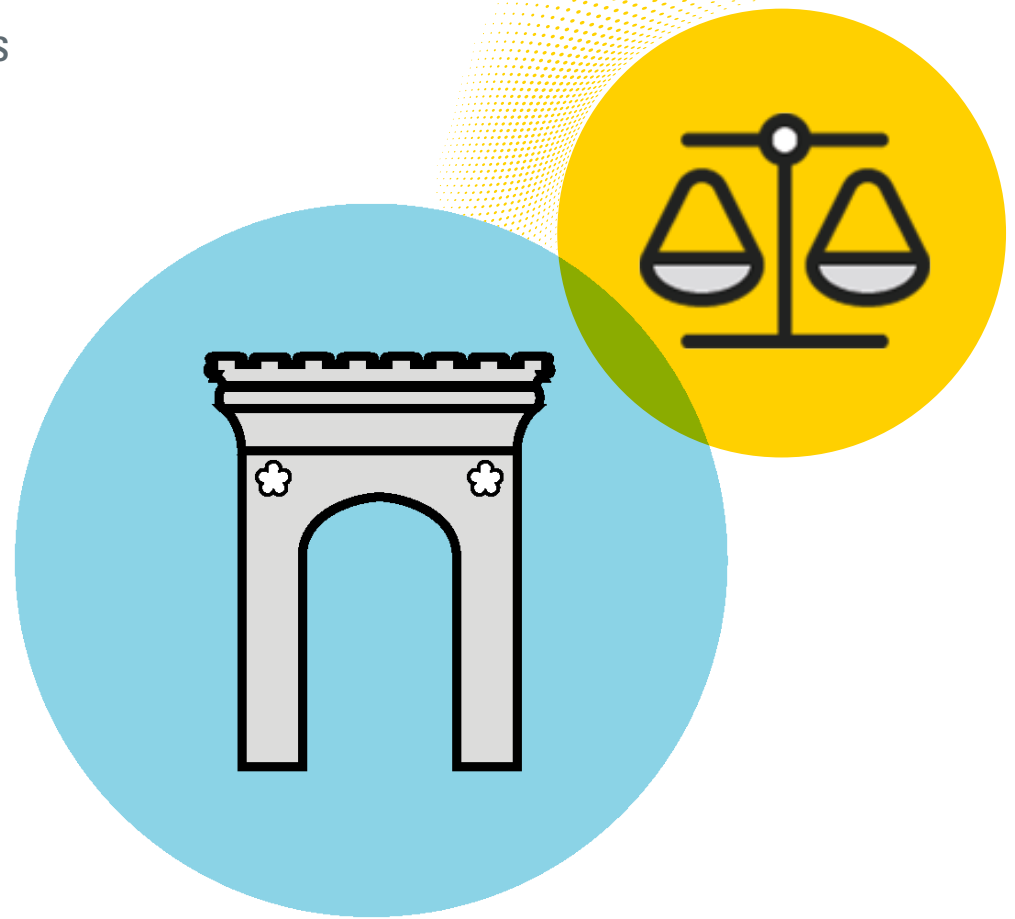# Student Rights and Responsibilities for Online Learning:
Important Information for all McMaster Community Members
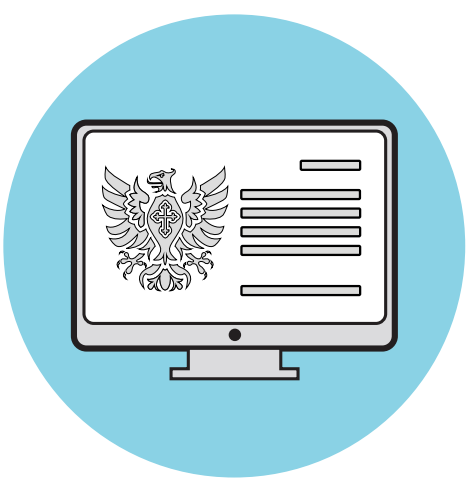
The Code

McMaster University values integrity, inclusiveness and teamwork, and strives to support the personal and collective growth of the McMaster student community. Even during difficult times, Marauders remain committed to excellence and the principles of mutual respect, responsibility, dignity, and the well-being of others.

These expectations, as embodied in our Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities, are important to remember as our community adapts to the challenges and changes presented by COVID-19. All students share the responsibility of maintaining a positive environment for the academic and personal growth of all McMaster community members, whether in person or online.

The Code remains in effect and applies to any interactions that adversely affect, disrupt or interfere with reasonable participation in University activities. Students must be mindful of their rights and responsibilities in their interactions online.

Online presence

- As a general rule, act online the same way you would in an in-person environment.
- If you wouldn't bring an item to class, don't share it in an online environment.
- Present yourself on video the same way you would at work or in class.
- Ensure that your clothing and background do not contain explicit images or anything that may offend others.

Cyber-bullying

- Cyber-bullying refers to the use of technology such as social media to target, humiliate, harass, threaten or embarrass someone.
- These actions can include making insults, trolling, cyber-stalking, excluding others from discussions or posting images online without permission.
- Cyber-bullying may not only violate University policies, but it can also be against the law.
- As a general rule to prevent cyber-bullying, treat others the way you want to be treated.

Disruptive behaviour

- Technology can sometimes be tricky to navigate. Support your peers and instructors with patience and kindness.
- Get familiar with Zoom and other online platforms. Learn how to use tools such as mute functions to avoid interruptions.
  - Tips for web and video conferencing
  - Best practices for web conferencing privacy and security
- Avoid inappropriate screen names or aliases.

Get support

Have you experienced difficulties or witnessed disruptive behaviour in an online learning environment? Email **sscmo@mcmaster.ca** for support and to consult with a case manager who can address your concerns. For more information, visit **sscm.mcmaster.ca/** and download the **Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities.**

If you are experiencing an emergency or if you have safety concerns, security services are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week: **905-522-4135.**

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