



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR STUDENTS

1. What is job action? Is there any difference between a full job action and a rotating job action?

A strike or job action occurs when a group of employees legally withdraws services. During job action or strike, the employees may choose to set up picket lines. When the target of the strike or job action is a building or buildings and the picket line moves from time to time, this is referred to as a rotating strike or job action. When there are pickets at all of the gates on campus or an employee group withdraws all of its services we refer to it as a full strike or job action.

2. Is there currently job action at UBC?

No. At this point, UBC is involved in negotiating new collective agreements with several of the trade unions representing UBCV employees. Arising out of the negotiations, there is the possibility that one or more of the unions may engage in strike and/or picketing activity at the UBCV campus in the next several days.

3. What are my responsibilities as a student?

As a student you are required to inform yourself of your rights and responsibilities and to keep apprised of information and the changing nature of the job action. It is essential that you read:

- The Academic Position of Students in Case of a Strike (found at www.vpstudents.ubc.ca)
- Frequently asked questions for students posted on www.ubc.ca
- Updates for students as they are posted on www.ubc.ca

4. Will the examination period proceed as scheduled in the event of a strike or job action?

Yes, the examination period will proceed as it is scheduled.

5. How will job action affect me?

In the event of any job action, the University will remain open for our students, maintain instruction in all courses, provide access to core library services and internet connectivity, oversee examinations as scheduled and provide student services. However, a job action may affect your learning environment. Some of the possible effects are:

- It will probably take longer to get assignments and feedback on your completed work from your professors.
- There may be tutorials, discussion groups, seminars and course related activities that are rescheduled or canceled.
- There may be fewer opportunities to interact with your professors.
- There may be fewer academic resources as a result of teaching assistants withdrawing services.
- The University may need to reduce hours of operation for the library and other services.
- There may be an impact on the study space available for students on campus.



It is too early to determine the impact on the campus. However, hours of operation at campus and student services may be affected. Please visit www.ubc.ca for up-to-date information.

The University will proceed with final examination preparations as scheduled.

TransLink bus service may be affected in the event that job action is located at the main entrances of campus.

If the bus service to campus is affected because of job action, a shuttle service will be available to people with disabilities or medical conditions unable to walk to campus from the drop-off point. Please refer to the Student Services Hours of Operation Information on www.ubc.ca.

6. Will there be picket lines?

It is not possible to predict what form of job action may be exercised and the impact it may have on campus. There may be rotating picket lines or picket lines at one or all of the gates to campus or around specific buildings.

In the event of picket lines being set up, you are expected to come to campus and make every effort to attend class and/or your examinations unless you choose not to cross a picket line as a matter of conscience and have advised your Dean of this decision. Students choosing not to cross picket lines must, within two working days of the commencement of a strike or prior to their first exam, whichever comes first, inform the Dean of the Faculty in which they are registered or in the case of graduate students, the Dean of the Faculty offering their program of study. Students must inform the Dean in person or in writing (i.e. letter or e-mail) that they will not be attending classes or writing examinations during the strike. Students must provide their full names, their UBC student IDs, and the course(s) in which they are currently registered. Contact information for Faculties for this purposes can be found on the www.ubc.ca website under strike information for students or in the document titled the "Academic Position of Students in Case of a Strike".

7. How will I know if there is a picket line at a building?

The University is not in a position to advise beforehand which areas or buildings may be picketed. Picket lines may move around and access to buildings may vary throughout the day. It is the responsibility of students to come to campus and make every effort to attend the class/examination. Students who choose not to cross a picket line as a matter of conscience and have advised their Dean of this decision will be excused from attending the class/writing an examination ONLY if the picket line was set up in the location of the class/examination at the time the class/examination was held and all entrances were picketed.

8. What should I expect when I approach a picket line?

You should expect that unionized staff and other supporters on the picket line will try to convince you to support their cause by not crossing the line. However, the choice is yours.

You may find it easier if you cross with one or more of your friends.



9. Will I be prevented from crossing the picket line?

No, you should not be impeded from crossing the picket line.

If you witness or experience threatening or inappropriate verbal or physical conduct by an individual on a picket line, you should report it to Human Resources (604.822.8111) and Vice President, Students office (604.822.3644 or ypsassist@exchange.ubc.ca). If the situation warrants police attention, dial 911, and then inform Human Resources of the situation.

10. I don't want to cross the picket line. What do I need to do?

If you choose not to cross the picket line, you must inform the Dean of the Faculty in which you are registered that you intend not to cross the picket line, as a decision of conscience, within two working days of the commencement of a strike or prior to your first exam, whichever comes first. You need to inform your Dean's office in advance of your first exam. You only need to do this once.

Students choosing not to cross picket lines must, within two working days of the commencement of a strike or prior to their first exam, whichever comes first, inform the Dean of the Faculty in which they are registered or in the case of graduate students, the Dean of the Faculty offering their program of study. Students must inform the Dean in person or in writing (i.e. letter or e-mail,) that they will not be attending classes or writing examinations during the strike. Students must provide their full names, their UBC student IDs, and the course(s) in which they are currently registered. Contact information for Faculties for this purposes can be found on the www.ubc.ca website under strike information for students or in the document titled the "Academic Position of Students in Case of a Strike".

You may not declare your intentions retroactively.

If you do not inform your Faculty, the University will assume that you are attending all examinations, classes and course-related activities.

Ensure you have read the "Academic Position of Students in Case of a Strike".

Please note that even if you decide not to cross the picket lines, you are required to come to campus to determine whether there is a picket line at all entrances to the building in which your exam is scheduled at the time of the scheduled class or examination, or if there are picket lines set up at all entrances to the University.

11. Are the academic standards different for students who choose to cross a picket line and those who don't?

Academic standards should be consistent for all students, whether or not they cross a picket line. Students are responsible for learning any material they may have missed as a result of a labour disruption.

The only course-related material that will not be examinable or assessable is material uniquely available in a classroom or lab and that is not covered in make-up sessions.



Students who miss an essential component and/or a scheduled examination as a result of refusing to cross a picket line will be expected to attend make-up sessions and/or to write deferred or supplemental examinations. Especially in degree programs with professional accreditation requirements, graduation depends upon completing essential material.

12. I have informed my Faculty that I will not cross a picket line. What do I do in the event of rotating pickets during examinations?

Students who have declared that they will not cross a picket line must determine for themselves that there is a picket line and no alternative entrance to the building for each exam. The job action may change over time.

You are required to come to campus to determine whether there is a picket line at all entrances to the building in which your exam is scheduled at the time of the scheduled class or examination, or if there are picket lines set up at all entrances to the University.

Students are responsible for staying informed about their responsibilities and the job action at UBC by referring to reliable sources of information. You can find these at www.ubc.ca and for student specific information, the Vice President, Students website at www.vpstudents.ubc.ca.

13. Does using the internet during job action constitute crossing the picket line?

Use of the internet, in whatever form – whether it is Interchange or the UBC website, is not crossing the picket line.

14. My course instructor has informed our class that he/she will not cross the picket line and will not teach classes/administer examinations in the event of a strike. I have decided that I will cross the picket line. What happens?

In the event of a strike, the University will take every reasonable measure to maintain instruction in all courses, provide access to the core library services and internet connectivity, and oversee examinations as scheduled.

Faculty members are responsible for teaching their courses and students are responsible for fulfilling course requirements. However, the University respects the right of students or faculty members, as a matter of conscience, to refuse to cross a picket line in a labour dispute.

Each faculty will endeavour to provide instructors to teach and invigilate examinations for faculty members who have declared that they will not cross a picket line.

15. Will choosing not to cross a picket line affect my academic record?

Informing your Dean of your intention not to cross a picket line will not become part of your academic record.



16. Who do I talk to if I have concerns about my academic situation because of strike related action?

You should first attempt to resolve your concern with your Department Head or Faculty or School's advising office.

If you have sought to resolve your course-related or program-related concerns within your Department or Faculty, but feel that you have been treated unfairly, the University has designated an Academic Arbiter. Dr. Michael Feeley, a senior faculty member, has been designated as Academic Arbiter during this labour dispute. Administrative support to Professor Feeley will be provided by Lindsey Kovacevic who can be reached by email at lindsey.kovacevic@ubc.ca.

17. What if my academic program does not require attending classes or examinations – do I still need to inform the Dean's office?

If your academic activities do not require attending classes or being on campus and you intend to continue your studies, then you do not have to inform the Dean's office.

18. Where will I be able to eat on campus?

If there is rotating job action, Food Services will remain open, unless there are picket lines around the buildings where there are Food Services operations.

19. My children are in UBC Daycare. Will it remain open?

For issues relating to Child Care Services and whether the centres are open during job action, parents should call the general information line at 604-822-5343. The outgoing voicemail message will be updated to provide the most current information available.

20. What is the best way to get to the university in the event of job action?

If there are pickets at the main University entrances, TransLink bus service to UBC will be affected. Buses may not drop off passengers at the bus loop.

If you take the bus and pickets are set up at the main University entrances, you may need to walk some distance to get to campus. Allow yourself as much time as possible in case of delays.

If you drive, there may be delays entering through University Gates. Allow yourself some extra time, as it will take longer to cross the picket line. Be prepared and be patient. Travel with a friend.

21. If I travel by car, will parking be available?

All parking facilities on campus will remain open and UBC Traffic and Parking rules remain in effect. Parkades will be accessible with a valid FlexPass and access package, or by paying the posted rate of \$3.50 per hour.