

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) Students April 14, 2015 onward

- [Is the strike over?](#)
- [Can exams be "optional"?](#)

Q: **Is the strike over?**

A: The strike is suspended for the duration of the mediation process proposed by the CFA and ultimately agreed to by the Administration. The CFA is hopeful that this process, by which both parties agree to take a mediator's report to their constituents for ratification, will lead to a resolution.

Q: **Can exams be "optional"?**

A: Our courses are developed through an exacting process and scrutinized for suitable transferability. We do not condone any notion of "optional" exams, as we believe it could undermine both the value of our courses, and their transferability, currently identified through the province-wide BCCAT system.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) - Students prior to April 14

- [Why is the CFA on strike?](#)
- [Will I eventually be graded for this semester?](#)
- [Are there exemptions for who is affected by strike action if it escalates to the walkout stage?](#)
- [Direct link to CSU strike info page](#)

Q: **Why is the CFA on strike?**

A: The CFA is on strike because faculty members want to ensure that a transparent, democratic, and collegial approach is adopted in advance of changes to faculties and course offerings. This is embedded in the Negotiating Committee's mandated themes of Job Security, Regularization (for "non-regular" instructors), Democratic Work Place, and Academic Freedom. Salary has never been an issue; it was the CFA's proposal in December to abide by the government-mandated wage package, and this has always been the faculty's position since then.

Q: **Will I eventually be graded for this semester?**

A: Yes. Grades are being delayed, not denied. Faculty have continued their grading work, but on 31 March stopped returning assignments with numeric or letter grades.

Q: Are there exemptions for who is affected by strike action if it escalates to the walkout stage?

A: Yes. In past job actions, the CFA has determined exemptions, but this time we are bound to follow a decision of the Labour Relations Board (LRB), issued on April 2, 2015. The university administration applied to have certain services declared “essential,” which means necessary to prevent harm to the health, safety, or welfare of British Columbians.

Due to the narrow scope of essential services, the LRB ordered that only very limited services are available. For students, the most important service that is available is the counselling office, with a full-time counsellor Monday-Friday, and a counsellor on call. Unfortunately, the day care was not included in the order as an essential service, so it will be closed during the strike, as of April 8. The other services are on-call facilities and information-technology support, plus a science lab technician to take care of the specimens and animals in the lab.

Q: Is our school year at risk?

A: No. The strike may cause changes to the timing of exams and may delay final grades, but this semester is not at risk, let alone the entire year.

The Capilano Student Union has posted a helpful list of Q & A for students, linked here: **CSU strike info page:** <http://csu.bc.ca/strikeinfo/>