Joint Undergraduate Program of Studies

Environmental Sciences and Engineering

Regulation for the Implementation of E-Learning

January 2026

E-learning Regulation

According to Article 67, paragraph 4 of Law 4957/2022 of the Hellenic Republic, the organization of courses and other educational activities through distance learning methods applies to courses and activities that can be supported by such methods and do not involve practical, laboratory, or clinical training requiring physical presence.

The organization of the distance learning educational process is supported by the electronic course management system administered by the IT Centre of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. This service aims at reinforcing traditional teaching through electronic organization by providing a wide range of electronic educational tools to enrich the teaching process and enhance the teaching and learning experience of both instructors and students, respectively.

The IT Centre is the central body responsible for managing all IT and Education infrastructures and services of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, while its staff possesses exceptional expertise and technical know-how in the use of distance learning technologies.

Supported services include:

- An integrated electronic course management system (elearning.auth.gr) (LMS), implemented through the open-source software Moodle, which allows the creation and hosting of virtual classrooms. Access to the service is provided through a simple web browser without requiring specialized technical knowledge. The integration of distance learning methods into the educational process of AUTH supports and enhances teaching and access to interdisciplinary knowledge, offering combinations of new methods to complement traditional modes of instruction. This way, participants are able to choose their own time frame to communicate and access the educational content. Moreover, the system provides digital organization and distribution of course material as well as a variety of communication tools between instructors and students, facilitating the smooth and uninterrupted delivery of the courses.
- A user-friendly environment for synchronous distance learning that enables real-time interaction among participants and the delivery of distance lectures using tools such as Zoom, MS Teams, Google Meet, and BigBlueButton. These synchronous distance learning services are web-based videoconferencing platforms that support up to 1,000 participants per session and offer users high-quality video web-conferencing capabilities. Through these platforms, users are able to fully collaborate remotely, thereby increasing their productivity while reducing the time and cost associated with face-to-face meetings. The service supports voice communication among users and the ability to share files with collaborators without requiring complex settings or tool configuration. The service is also linked with the University's institutional accounts.
- Classrooms equipped with appropriate audiovisual infrastructure to host a distance learning.

- Technological support for the creation of multimedia material (podcasts – videocasts) synchronized with the lecturer's presentation in the offered courses, through the AUTH educational material production infrastructure (https://it.auth.gr/service/studio/).
- Support for live streaming and recording of courses.

The electronic distance learning platform enables the development of courses fully accessible to students with disabilities, providing asynchronous distance learning services for all second-cycle study programmes organized by the University. The platform allows for course material upload, including notes, presentations, exercises and their Illustrative solutions, as well as recorded lectures, given that the current legislation on personal data protection is followed. All educational material is provided exclusively for the educational use of students and is protected by Law 2121/1993 (A' 25), provided that the relevant conditions are met.

The University stipulates the general terms and conditions for organizing the educational process through distance learning methods, the operational unit responsible for supporting the entire distance learning procedure, the resolution of issues concerning the safeguarding and protection of the personal data of instructors and learners in the learning process, as well as any other technical matter relating to distance learning methods.

Teaching staff's digital skills and technical know-how in the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)

Distance learning, both in terms of teaching and assessment, is carried out using appropriate technologies and is supported primarily by the School's technical staff, and secondarily by the IT Centre. All support is provided with strict adherence to ensuring the integrity of the educational process and the protection of participants' personal data, in full compliance with current legal provisions.

Digital educational material

The digital educational material to be used in the distance learning process will cover teaching operations and includes:

- Digital (electronic) slide files on each teaching unit of the course.
- Digital books, i.e. electronic versions of printed books that can be read on devices such as tablets, laptops, or e-readers.
- Recorded video and audio files in which instructors explain the concepts of each teaching unit.
- Digital databases containing material from scientific journals and academic publications freely available through the University Library.
- Digital material suitable for supporting the learning and practice of students (for example, multiple-choice questions, examination samples, etc.).

Methods and tools for the digital assessment of students

The educational assessment of students' acquired knowledge **may** also be conducted through distance examinations. In general, the techniques of digital student assessment are as follows:

Written examination with the following characteristics: open-ended (essay-type) or closed-ended (multiple choice, matching, true/false, etc.) questions, limited time, creation and distribution of different tests from a question bank, randomization of questions in each test, randomization of answers in closed-ended questions, automatic grading for closed-ended questions.

Oral examination with the following characteristics: conducted via videoconferencing, individual, limited time (30 minutes).

Assignment submission with the following characteristics: involves the announcement, submission, and evaluation of assignments; mainly used for the assessment of skills, deliverables, and exercises related to each course; unsupervised; extended time required.

Midterm examinations using distance methods shall be conducted by means and procedures that guarantee the integrity of the examination process, always respecting the protection of examinees' personal data. As an illustration, methods of digital student assessment may include the following:

- *Weekly assignments* posted on the electronic learning service elearning.auth.gr. Students first study the weekly instructional material and then answer the questions or solve the exercises. Subsequently, they upload their answers to the specific section of the postgraduate course. The platform provides electronic grading and immediate feedback to students, as well as plagiarism-detection software to ensure the originality of each assignment.
- *Midterm distance examination* with multiple-choice and/or short-answer questions, combined with videoconferencing (with open cameras and microphones). In addition, the course instructor may invite students who have been examined electronically to an oral examination to confirm their level of understanding of the course material. The exam is conducted with questions administered via the e-learning platform (https://elearning.auth.gr/). Within a specific examination time frame, students answer the same number of questions randomly drawn from a question bank. Due to this randomization, each student receives different questions presented in different order. Students proceed sequentially through the questions, moving only forward, and upon completing the final question, they submit their answers without the option to review the exam in its entirety. The integrity of the examination is thus ensured, as each student receives different, randomized questions. Throughout the exam, students are supervised by an invigilator. Before the exam begins, electronic identity verification check is carried out. One invigilator supervises a maximum of 25 examinees. The instructor is present during the examination to resolve any questions and/or technical issues. This synchronous examination procedure guarantees the validity of the assessment process while safeguarding participants' personal data.

- *Final distance examinations* may be assessed orally and/or digitally, but are conducted only at the School's premises.
- Combined methods will be used to finalize student assessment. If the examiner has any doubts about the validity of distance or digital assessment conducted at the School's premises, the examiner may summon the student to an oral examination within a reasonable timeframe (e.g., three working days, and necessarily within the examination period). In such cases, the oral examination prevails over the distance one.
- Students with learning difficulties or disabilities, who cannot be assessed through conventional procedures, will be examined orally via the platform by a committee composed of the course instructor and two additional faculty members specialized in the same or a related subject area.

The above assessment methods ensure the integrity of the educational process, promote meritocracy, and contribute to the qualitative improvement of the services provided. The examination schedule (midterm and final) is announced by the Secretariat of the School in collaboration with all involved parties.

At the end of the assessment process, students are informed of their grades through personalized updates via the electronic Secretariat system and/or through anonymized posting of results in a designated field of the integrated e-learning system, or through another appropriate electronic medium.

Personal Data

According to the data protection policy of AUTH: AUTH fully complies with the existing legal framework, which includes the General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR) and Law 4624/2019, and adheres to this Data Protection Policy by adopting appropriate technical and organizational measures for the collection, use, storage, disclosure, and transfer of personal data of all members of the academic community.

Personal data processing during distance examinations is carried out in such a way as to achieve an appropriate level of security against risks such as accidental or unlawful destruction, loss, alteration, unauthorized disclosure of, or access to personal data transmitted, stored, or otherwise processed. Teaching staff, invigilators, and individuals providing technical and/or administrative support (such as platform administrators) are bound by confidentiality obligations.

The selection of the electronic platform for conducting examinations remotely is based on its reliability and the guarantees it provides for personal data protection.

Digital Assessment Material

The digital material to be used in support of the assessment methods may include, as an illustration:

- The creation of assignments to be submitted, as well as question banks for multiple-choice tests, either through the University's integrated electronic course management system or through any other platform of the School.
- The electronic management, submission, and grading of all assignments (practical and/or written) for each postgraduate course through the University's integrated electronic course management system. The final grades of each course are posted and are readily available through the AUTH electronic Secretariat service.