

Enrolment & First Year Information Guide

2024



Important Dates & Deadlines

Mark these dates on your calendar! See more dates on: <https://registrar.mcmaster.ca/dates-and-deadlines/#tab-00>

FALL 2024 TERM

June 26	Enrolment for incoming Level I
September 3	Fall term classes begin
September 11	Last day for enrolment and course changes (add/drop)
September 30	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation - no classes
October 14 - 20	Midterm recess
November 8	Last day for withdrawing from courses without failure by default
Nov 29 - Dec 4	Test and examination restriction (no exams or tests held during this period)
December 5	Classes end
December 6 - 19	Final examinations
February 18 - 21	Deferred examinations from fall term

WINTER 2025 TERM

January 6	Winter term classes begin
January 14	Last day for enrolment and course changes (add/drop)
February 17 - 23	Midterm recess
March 14	Last day for withdrawing from courses without failure by default
April 18	Good Friday break: no classes or examinations
April 2 - 9	Test and examination restriction (no exams or tests held during this period)
April 8	Classes end
April 10 - 26	Final examinations
June 23 - 26	Deferred examinations from winter term

Understanding Your Undergraduate Program

Degrees

- Honours Bachelor of Arts degrees require successful completion of 120 units (usually 30 units per Level for four years) and a [Grade Point Average of at least 5.0.](#)
- A Bachelor of Arts degree requires successful completion of 90 units (30 units per Level for three years) and a [Grade Point Average of 3.5.](#)
- Some degree programs are limited enrolment, meaning there is a limited number of spaces.
- Combined Honours degrees are available provided the entry requirements are met for each of the relevant Honours degrees. These combinations are available within the Faculty of Social Sciences, with programs in the Faculty of Humanities, and with the Arts and Science Program. Note: The Honours B.A. Social Psychology and Honours Bachelor of Social Work programs are not available in combination with another subject.
- [A Minor is optional](#) - it is a collection of at least 24 units of course work in another subject area that is elective to your degree, taken throughout an Honours degree.

Courses

- It is important to know how to read a course code. Let's use ECON 1B03 as an example.
 - "ECON" refers to Economics and represents the program the course belongs to. The first digit indicates which level the course is. The "1" means it is a first year course. The last digit indicates the number of units the course is worth.
 - Most courses are worth 3 units and last one term, either from September to December (Fall term) or January to April (Winter term).
 - A full course load is 24 to 30 units (i.e. four or five 3-unit courses, per term).
- Level I students are required to have successfully completed **at least 24 units** to be eligible for Level II programs.



Level I

Frequently Asked Questions



I'm in Social Sciences I, when do I choose my major?

At the end of first year, you will use Mosaic to rank your preferences and apply to your top four program choices. You can specialize in one subject or focus on two subjects equally in a Combined Honours degree, such as two Social Sciences subjects or one from Social Sciences and one from Humanities.

When can I apply to co-op?

Students can apply to one of three co-op program options - Economics Co-op, Honours Political Science Co-op or Honours Work and Labour Studies Co-op, at the end of your Level I year. You apply to these programs at the same time that you select your major.

Can I transfer from one program to another?

Yes, it is possible to transfer from one degree program to another, provided all course and entry requirements are met. We encourage you to book a meeting with your Academic Advisor to discuss.

I have a disability or require some form of academic accommodation. How do I receive support?

[Student Accessibility Services \(SAS\)](#) provides academic assistance and related supports to students with documented needs at McMaster. Please contact SAS early to ensure that your accommodations are in place.

What are electives?

Electives are courses beyond the core requirements that a student takes. These may come from the Social Sciences course list and/or from other Faculties.

Do I need math?

For **Economics**, you must have taken Grade 12 Calculus and Vectors (MCV4U) and Grade 12 Mathematics of Data Management (MDM4U) in high school. If you have not taken either course, or have not taken the equivalent courses within your curricula, you must take the McMaster course equivalent in your first year:

- MATH 1F03 = MCV4U: Grade 12 Calculus and Vectors (*requires Advanced Functions, or MATH 1K03)
- STATS 1LL3 = MDM4U: Grade 12 Mathematics of Data Management

For **Psychology, Neuroscience & Behaviour**, you must have taken Grade 12 Calculus and Vectors U (MCV4U) in high school. If you have not taken this course or the equivalent within your curricula, you must take the McMaster course equivalent in your first year:

- MATH 1F03 = MCV4U: Grade 12 Calculus and Vectors U (*requires Advanced Functions, or MATH 1K03)

If you are unsure if you have taken the required math courses in high school, refer to the Math Equivalents chart on the following page or contact an Academic Advisor.

If you would like to take these courses over the summer, explore your options here:

- [ILC](#)
- [Virtual High School](#)

Common Math Equivalents

AP/US	Calculus AB or Calculus BC Grade 12 Status or AP Status Pre-Calculus AP Calculus	MCV MDM MHF MCV
IB	Math HL Math SL Math Studies SL Math Analysis & Approaches (Math Applications & Interpretations no equiv.)	MCV, MHF, MDM MCV, MHF, MDM MDM, MHF, MHF MCV, MDM
CAPE	Unit I Pure Math Unit I & II Pure Math Unit I & II Applied Math Unit II Pure & Unit II Applied Math	MHF MHF, MCV MDM MDM
GCE	A (2) Level Math A (2) Level Further Math AS Level Math	MCV, MHF, MCV MHF, MDM, MCV MHF
CBSE/AISSCE	Mathematics	MCV, MHF

Helpful Enrolment Tips

Out of Province/Out of Country High School Students

High school students from outside of Ontario may require course permission to enrol in a course that requires a high school prerequisite. While the majority of courses you will select as a student do not have high school prerequisites, others such as Math, Science and Language courses may require prior preparation.

Please contact the [Faculty of Social Sciences](#) to be reviewed to determine course eligibility. If the Faculty determines that a prerequisite has been met, course permission will be coded for individual courses, allowing students to include them in their enrolment. This may take several days to complete. We strongly advise that you contact the Faculty as early as possible, as courses will become full.

College/Transfer Students

University transfer students are advised to consult the [Academic Calendar](#) to confirm what courses are required to complete your McMaster degree. If you are considering a course with a high school prerequisite, you must contact the Faculty of Social Sciences so we may determine if you have the academic background to take the course, and add the necessary course permissions.

Mature Students

When selecting your courses, ensure that you meet the prerequisites and consider your interests. Choose courses based on what you think you will enjoy, while meeting the requirements of your Level I program. You may want to think ahead to your Level II degree program and select your courses with those in mind. Mature students may enrol in up to 18 units of course work (typically Level I courses) during the Fall/Winter terms with no more than 9 units (3 courses) per term. Upon completion of 18 units, your performance will be reviewed according to McMaster's general academic regulations.

Ready to **Enrol?**

1 Plan your courses

As part of your admissions package, you have received access to the Mosaic portal. As a McMaster student, you will use your **Mosaic Student Centre** to search for classes, plan your schedule and drop, add, or swap courses. You may also view your student accounts and balances, view your degree standing and grades, view program requirements, access unofficial transcripts, and more.

2 Enrol in Required Classes

Level I enrolment will begin on June 26, 2024. Your individual enrolment date will be posted to your Mosaic Student Centre on **June 12th, 2024**. It can be found on the right hand side of the Student Centre, under Enrolment Dates. On your individual enrolment date you can begin to enrol in courses and continue to drop, add or swap courses until the end of the drop and add period. **Enrol early to ensure a seat in your preferred courses!**

Plan for enrolment by reviewing the Level I course requirements in the [Academic Calendar](#). When choosing your Level I courses, remember to select the required classes that will allow you entry into your preferred degree program(s) in Level II.

Before enrolment begins, sign into Mosaic and search for classes through your **Student Centre** portal or through the **Create MyTimetable** tile. You can save schedules to your favourites and easily pull them up when it's your time to enrol.

Note: Putting courses in MyTimetable does not mean that you have registered in those courses. You must confirm your selection and click 'Get this Schedule'

You can activate your McMaster email account once you have successfully completed enrollment.

3 Funding & Payment Options

Visit the [Office of the Registrar's](#) website for details on paying your fees, OSAP, the Ontario Tuition Grant, financial aid for Out-of-Province students and entrance awards, scholarships bursaries. Fees for the Fall term are due in September.



Enrolment

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I enrol in both terms at the same time?

Yes, you should enrol in both terms at the same time to ensure you have a seat in all of your desired and required courses. Seating in courses at the end of Fall term for the Winter term is extremely limited. You will be able to make changes to your Winter term courses before the term begins.

What if the course I want is full?

The status of open and closed courses is always changing, so check often in case seats become available, should another student drop their seat. You may also choose another course that has space available. Enrol as early as possible so your access to courses is optimized.

What do I do if a course I want to take isn't offered?

Not all courses are offered every year. If you can't find a course you are looking for on Mosaic's class search, please try another term. If the course is not offered in either term, it may be offered next year.

I received an error message which says: "Available seats are reserved and you do not meet the reserve capacity criteria." What does this mean?

This message means that although seats are available, they are currently only open to certain groups of students (i.e. students majoring in that subject, students in a particular Faculty, or students of a particular Level). This is typically done to ensure students requiring the course for their program are able to obtain a seat. You may contact the department directly to ask when they will be releasing the seats, or keep checking periodically for open seats.

What do I do if a mandatory course is closed?

Keep checking Mosaic to see if a seat opens up. Students are able to contact the department that administers the course directly and inquire about permission to enrol in the course. If permission is granted, the department will set Mosaic up so you can enrol yourself.

How many courses should I take each term?

Your course load should be balanced between the Fall and Winter terms. A full course load is typically 5 courses (15 units) per term, but depending on your schedule, you may consider taking a reduced course load of 4 courses (12 units) per term. If you are unsure if a reduced course load is right for you, [contact an Academic Advisor.](#)

When are my tuition fees due?

Fees for the Fall term are due in September. For more information, visit the Office of the Registrar's Dates & Deadlines page.

What does "Multi-Term" (MT) mean? How do I add a multi-term course?

A multi-term course typically runs from September to April, over both Fall (Term A) and Winter (Term B) and is worth 6 units. Students who enrol into the "A" course are automatically enrolled into the "B" course. If you choose to drop either the "A" or "B" course, both courses are dropped at the same time. Both "A" and "B" sections should appear in your schedule once you have confirmed enrolment. In order to earn credit in a multi-term course, both the A and B sections must be completed. We do not award half credits.

How do I check prerequisites for a course?

You can check course prerequisites by visiting the [2024-2025 Academic Calendar](#) Prerequisites and antirequisites will be listed under the course description in the Course Listings section. You only need to set the subject prefix before filtering.

Can I take a course without meeting the prerequisites?

Under certain circumstances a department may grant permission to a student to take a course without meeting the prerequisites. If permission is given, the department will set Mosaic up so you can enroll yourself. If not, you will need to meet the prerequisite before being able to enroll.

Things to Know

Concurrent Certificate Options

Applied Social Sciences Research

This certificate aims to provide opportunities for interested students to acquire broader exposure and competencies in applied research methods to meet the needs of the labour market and student interests.

Social Innovation

This certificate is designed for students to develop an academic focus in the development and implementation of solutions for effective, long-term social impact.

Our Recommended Courses

SOCSCI ISS3 – Inquiry in the Social Sciences

The systematic investigation of any subject requires a set of widely applicable and transferrable skills. Students learn how to formulate questions, gather and interpret evidence, and reach well-considered conclusions. The content theme will be drawn from Social Sciences issues and will vary depending on the subject expertise of the instructor.

SOCSCI IT03 – Life, the University, and Everything

In this course, students will build the core academic abilities and habits that are crucial for success in student life and in the transition into and through university. Through a unique blend of online and active in-person learning, students will explore issues and ideas from each of the programs in the social sciences in order to develop their academic interests and plan for success. * Offered in the Fall term only



Student Advising & Support in the Social Sciences

Our academic advisors work with students to develop and implement individual plans for the purpose of achieving both academic and personal goals. To request an appointment create a ticket on the Social Science portal.



Office Hours: Monday – Friday
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM and
1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Phone: (905) 525-9140, ext. 23772

Email: socscfac@mcmaster.ca

Located: KTH 129



#iamsocsci

Social Sciences

