

Enrolment & First Year Information Guide

2022

SOCIAL SCIENCES

McMaster
University 

Important Dates

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

June 28 - 30	Enrolment opens for incoming Level I students
September 6	Fall term classes begin
September 14	Last day for enrolment and course changes (drop/add)
September 30	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation - no classes
October 10 - 16	Mid-term recess
November 11	Last day for withdrawing from courses without failure by default
December 2 - 8	Test and examination restriction (no tests or exams held during this period)
December 8	Classes end
December 9 - 22	Final examinations
February 21 - 24	Deferred examinations
January 9	Winter term classes begin
January 17	Last day for enrolment and course changes (drop/add)
February 20 - 26	Mid-term recess
March 17	Last day for withdrawing from courses without failure by default
April 6 - 13	Test and examination restriction (no tests or exams held during this period)
April 7 - 8	Good Friday Break: No classes or examinations
April 12	Classes end
April 14 - 29	Final examinations
June 19 - 22	Deferred examinations

Registration Success

Understanding Your Undergraduate Program

Degrees

- Most 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](#).
- 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, 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).
- In addition to lectures, many courses will have smaller tutorial or lab sections. Tutorial/lab sections are picked at the same time as the core course section, during enrolment.
- A full course load is 24 to 30 units (i.e. four or five 3-unit courses, per term).
- Level I students are expected to have completed **at least 24 units** to be eligible for Level II programs.

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.

Level I Frequently Asked Questions

Where can I get my questions about COVID-19 answered?

[Back to Mac COVID-19 information page](#)

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

All students will declare their 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. Students may also use electives to enhance their degree, by taking courses or completing a Minor in a complementary subject. This allows you to take a variety of courses in any of our [12 areas of study](#) and discover a program best suited to your interests.

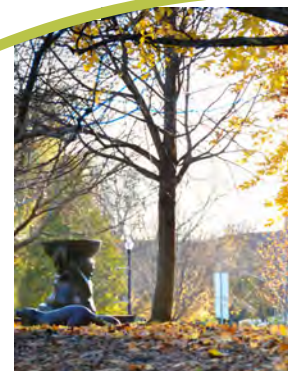
All Social Sciences students must take at least 18 units from the [Social Sciences course list](#) and 6 to 12 units of electives from either Social Sciences or other Faculties, provided the prerequisites of individual courses are met. That is 12 to 15 units per semester, or four to five one-term courses.

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.

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.



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.



Do I need math?

For **Economics**, you must have taken Grade 12 Calculus and Vectors (MCV4U) or 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 below.

While these courses can be taken in Level I, we recommend taking the Math or Biology courses required in the summer (leading up to your first year) to be best prepared.

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 Stats or AP Stats 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/University 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?

Follow these three easy steps to successfully enrol in your courses.

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.

To get started planning your courses, review [Step 3 of the Office of the Registrar's website](#) for details on how to upload a Student Card photo, plan your desired courses and enrol in classes.

2

Enrol in Required Classes

Level I enrolment will begin on June 28, 29 and 30, 2022. Your individual enrolment date will be posted to your Mosaic Student Centre on **June 10th, 2022.** 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 by navigating to **Student Centre > MyTimetable**. You can save schedules to your favourites and easily pull them up when it's your time to enrol.

To add courses to your list, select a term, then search for a course by typing in course code (i.e. SOCSCI 1T03), course titles (i.e. Life, the University & Everything) or the instructor's name. **Note: Putting courses in MyTimetable does not mean that you have registered in those courses.**

Repeat these steps for all desired courses for each term. Conflict free schedules will generate and appear in the right column. You can review all options and choose your optimal schedule.

Once your individual enrolment time opens (and you've already created the timetable you want), click **Get This Schedule**. From there, click **Go to Enrol**, and you're done!

For more information on using MyTimetable visit the [Enrolment Terminology page](#) on the Office of the Registrar's website. You can activate your McMaster email account once you have successfully completed enrollment.

Your McMaster email account will be your primary form of electronic communication with Faculty, staff and fellow students. **Note: Your McMaster email must be used for all university communications.**

3

Explore Your Funding and 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

When can I enrol in my courses?

Your individual enrolment date will be posted to your Mosaic account on **June 10, 2022**. You can check it on the right hand side of the Student Center, under the "Enrollment Dates" box. You will be given a specific time and date to begin enrolling.

When is Mosaic available?

You can access the Mosaic student portal anytime, 24 hours a day, on weekdays and weekends. However, the MyTimetable and Class Search will be available beginning **June 16, 2022**.

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.

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.

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 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.

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 do I check prerequisites for a course?

You can check course prerequisites by visiting the [2022-2023 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. You may contact the department that administers the course directly to inquire. 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.

Who can I talk to if I have questions about academics?

If you have questions about your program or academic plan you can [book an appointment](#) to meet with our first-year Academic Advisor. International students and direct-entry students can also contact Nicole, our [Student Experience Coordinator](#) for support. You can also email or call our office by using the contact information in the **How to Get Help** bubble on this page.

What if I only enrol in the Winter term?

Many programs require courses from both terms. You also need at least 24 units (8 x 3 unit courses) to apply to a Level II program near the end of Level I. Enrolling in courses for the Winter term only will not provide sufficient units to progress into Level II in Fall 2023. Also, your eligibility to qualify for OSAP or receive an entrance award normally requires taking courses in both terms.

Where can I find a list of all the courses available at McMaster?

The [2022-2023 Undergraduate Academic Calendar](#) is McMaster University's official repository for degree information, program requirements, academic rules and regulations. It lists every course available at the university. When searching courses, it is important to choose the most recent year of the calendar. This is a useful tool for planning courses from now until your final year at McMaster.



How to Get Help

Academic Advising Office

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

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