



The premier Work and Labour Studies program in Canada, and recognized around the world.

Understand how work is changing, in Canada and across the globe.

Work and Labour Studies

How are new technologies (like robots) impacting our jobs?
How can we achieve gender and racial equity at work?
Can work be organized so it is physically safe and mentally healthy?
Why are so many new jobs temporary or precarious?
What role do trade unions and other forms of collective organization have in promoting our rights at work and democracy in society?
These questions and more will be explored by students in Work and Labour Studies.

As an interdisciplinary field of study, Work and Labour Studies integrates: sociology, political science, law, history, economics, geography and health.

Our graduates have successful careers in: labour law, community development, policy analysis, teaching, occupational health and safety and more.

Our small program allows students to get to know their professors and we seek to engage, inform, challenge and learn from our students.



Degree options

To apply to Work and Labour Studies, students must successfully complete a Social Sciences Level I program, including in one of Work and Labour Studies 1A03, 1D03 or 1E03. Enrolment is limited and possession of the published minimum requirements **does not** guarantee admission.

Honours Work and Labour Studies B.A.

Grade Point Average of at least 5.0 (C) including a grade of at least 5.0 (C) in one of WRKLABR 1A03, 1D03 or 1E03.

Combined Honours B.A. in Work and Labour Studies & another subject

Grade Point Average of at least 5.0 (C) including a grade of at least 5.0 (C) in one of WRKLABR 1A03, 1D03 or 1E03. Satisfaction of admission requirements for the Honours program in the other B.A. subject.

Minors

Work and Labour Studies (Limited Enrolment)

For students interested in pursuing the Work and Labour Studies B.A., please refer to the Undergraduate Calendar.

Research and Teaching

Our faculty conduct cutting-edge research on domestic and international work and labour issues.

- We are leaders in:
- community-engaged research
 - collaborating with unions and community organizations
 - promoting social and economic equality

Level I courses

WRKLABR 1A03

An Introduction to Work and Labour in Canada

An examination of how workers experiences have been shaped by economic and technological change, and by gender, ethnicity, and race. It will explore how workers have organized in the workplace and beyond to create positive social change.

WRKLABR 1D03

Technology and the Future of Work

This course explores the future of work in the face of the advances in robotics, artificial intelligence, and other technologies, and consider which jobs are most vulnerable to automation. How is technology changing the work/life balance, and how will the current 4th industrial revolution be different than the previous ones? Most importantly, how can we organize to make machines enhance our lives instead of threatening our futures.

WRKLABR 1E03

Navigating the World of Work

Work is central to our quality of life, identities, and well-being. However, finding and keeping work that is meaningful, fair, safe, and sustainable is becoming more challenging. This course explores the changing nature of today's increasingly global workplaces and labour markets, the way that class, 'race', gender and ability shape our access to work, the laws and regulations that define workplace rights and obligations, and the strategies workers use to navigate these relationships.

Beyond first year

Choose from a variety of courses, such as:

- Creating and Connecting: Pop Culture, Social Media and Work
- Gender, Sexuality and Work
- Labour and Employment Law
- Labour and Globalization
- Work: Dangerous to your Health?
- Work and the Environment
- Working Precariously: Labour Strategies, Labour Renewal
- Work and Racism
- Sports, Work and Labour

Careers & Experiential Education

- Through Careers & Experiential Education programs, you can participate in paid internships, a tuition-free career planning course, academic placements and job shadowing
- In Unions in Action (WRKLABR 2A03), learn about the internal structures of unions and assess their strengths and areas of improvement. You will also discover how unions make decisions and shape policymaking through participatory exercises, including a simulated labour convention
- In Community Engaged Research (WRKLABR 3Q03), learn to conduct research that solves community problems in collaboration with community partners
- Go outside the classroom in our Labour Studies Practicum (WRKLABR 4A06), to gain experience working in a union, community group or government agency

More than **93%** report their Labour Studies degree was important in securing their first job

About **75%** are employed in a field directly related to their degree program.

Skills development

- Learn to solve problems using critical, reasoned thought
- Develop a well-rounded, holistic view of social and economic issues in all their complexity
- Hone communication skills through verbal presentations, podcasts, discussions and debates and use of social media
- Sharpen social research skills by conducting surveys, interviews, and fieldwork
- Develop writing skills for a variety of audiences, including through descriptive reports and analytical papers
- Analyze root causes of social problems, and work towards solutions with diverse groups of people

Potential careers

- Human Resources Manager
- Human Rights and Labour Lawyer
- Labour Relations Manager
- Occupational Health & Safety Coordinator
- Union Representatives
- Policy Analyst

"I'm interested in studying how different human groups become susceptible to extraction and violence in all their forms, state-sanctioned or otherwise. This includes asking questions such as: what are the racial and capital logics that underpin our institutions, labour markets, and policies historically and at the contemporary moment? How do race, class, and gender dynamics shape our everyday experiences? How are these experiences reproduced and normalized? In the classroom, I implore students to resist the soundbites of the contemporary moment and develop deep critical understandings of how the world works." – Tommy Wu



MEET A
FACULTY
MEMBER



MEET A
FELLOW
STUDENT

"I love the work and labour studies program because I've had the opportunity to learn about the theory and history of labour and society. This is valuable knowledge I can bring to my future career and apply to my everyday life. I'm happy to be apart of such a diverse, vibrant community, not only on campus, but in the city of Hamilton."

Victoria Muraca, Honours Labour Studies