Enrollment & First Year Information Guide 2021
## Important Dates

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

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<th>Date Range</th>
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<td>October 11 - 17</td>
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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. Social Sciences degrees can also be combined with programs from the Faculty of Humanities, and Economics specifically can be combined with Math and Computer Science.

- **A minor is optional** - it is a collection of at least 24 units of courses 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. This means it is a first year course. The last digit indicates the number of units the course is worth.

- Most courses are 3 units and last one term, either from September to December (Fall Term) or January to April (Winter Term).

- Many courses will have smaller tutorial or lab sections, as well as lectures. Tutorial/lab sections are picked with the core course section at the same time during enrollment.

- A full course load is 24 to 30 units (i.e. four or five 3-unit courses each 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.

- More information about these certificate requirements can be found in the [Academic Calendar](#).
Level 1 Frequently Asked Questions

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

We know you have questions about what the Fall will look like, so here are some resources to answer a few of your questions:

Back to Mac COVID-19 information page
Office of the Registrar Fall 2021 information page

If you still have questions, please contact the Academic Advising Office.

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

You will apply to your degree program of choice next April, near the end of your first year. You will use Mosaic to rank 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 single-term courses.

What are electives?

Electives are any 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 accommodations. 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 equivalents 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

If you are unsure if you have taken the required math courses in high school, refer to the Math Equivalents chart below.

For **Psychology, Neuroscience & Behaviour**, you must have taken MCV 4U (Grade 12 Calculus and Vectors U) in high school. If you have not taken this course or the equivalent within your curricula, you must take the McMaster course equivalents in your first year.

- MATH 1F03 = MCV 4U: Grade 12 Calculus and Vectors U (requires Advanced Functions or MATH 1K03)

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, MHC, MDM            
|            | MCM, MHF                 
|            | MCM, 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                      
|            | MCV, MVM                 
|            | MDM, MVM                 
| GCE        | A (2) Level Math         
|            | A (2) Level Further      
|            | Math AS Level Math       
|            | MCV, MHF, MCM, MVM, MHF  
| CBSE/AISSCE | Mathematics              
|            | MCV, MHF                 

Helpful Enrollment Tips

Out of Province / Out of Country High School Students

High school students from outside of Ontario may require course permission to enroll 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 enrollment. This may take several days to complete. We strongly advise that you contact the Faculty as early as possible, as courses will become full.

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 first year courses, ensure you meet the prerequisites and consider your interests. Choose courses based on what you think you would 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 enroll in up to 18 units of course work (normally 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 the university’s general academic regulations.
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 to 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 website for details on how to upload a Student Card photo, plan your desired courses and enroll in classes.

Enroll in Required Classes

**Level I enrollment appointments will be on June 28, 29 and 30, 2021.** Your individual enrollment appointment will be posted to your Mosaic Student Centre on June 11th. It can be found on the right hand side of the Student Centre, under Enrollment Dates. You can begin to enroll in courses once this appointment time opens and you can continue to drop, add or swap courses until the end of the drop and add period. **Enroll early to ensure a seat in your preferred courses!**

Plan for your enrollment appointment by reviewing the Level I course requirements in the Academic Calendar. When choosing your first year courses, remember to select the required classes that will allow you entry into your preferred degree program in Level II.

Before enrollment 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 enroll.

To add courses to your list, select a term, then search for a course by typing in course code (i.e. SOC SCI 1T03), course titles (i.e. Life, the University & Everything) or instructor's names. **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 enrollment appointment opens and you’ve created the timetable you want, click Get This Schedule. From here, click Go to Enroll and you’re done!

For more information on using MyTimetable visit the [Enrollment Terminology page](https://www.registrar.mcmaster.ca/enrollment) on the Office of the Registrar website. You can activate your McMaster email account once you have successfully completed enrollment.

Your studentmail.mcmaster.ca account will be your primary form of electronic communication with faculty, staff and fellow students. It must be used for all university communication.

Explore Your Funding and Payment Options

Visit Step 2 on the Office of the Registrar website for details on paying your fees, OSAP, the Ontario Tuition Grant, financial aid for Out-of-Provience students, entrance awards, scholarships and bursaries. Fees for the Fall Term are due in September.
Enrollment Frequently Asked Questions

When can I enroll in my courses?

Your enrollment appointment will be posted to your Mosaic account on June 11, 2021. 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, 2021.

Do I enroll in both terms at the same time?

Yes, you should enroll 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. Enroll 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 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 per term (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 and 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 enroll 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 enrollment. 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?

If a course is mandatory for your degree requirements and it is closed, please contact the department that administers the course directly and inquire about permission to enroll in the course. If permission is given, the department will set Mosaic up so you can enroll yourself. If not, keep checking Mosaic to see if a seat opens up.
**How do I check prerequisites for a course?**

You can check course prerequisites by visiting the [2021-2022 Academic Calendar](https://academiccalendar.mcmaster.ca). 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 or just need a listening ear?**

If you have questions about your program or academic plan you can [book an appointment](https://app.mcmaster.ca/bookapp/) to meet with our first-year Academic Advisor. International Students and Direct Entry Students can also contact Nicole, our [Student Experience Coordinator](https://www.mcmaster.ca/student-affairs/student-life/student-experience/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 enroll 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 in April. Enrolling in courses for the Winter Term only will not provide sufficient units to progress into Level II in Fall 2022. 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 [2021-2022 Undergraduate Academic Calendar](https://academiccalendar.mcmaster.ca) 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.

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**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