

Discover McGill: Orientation 2015

Faculty of Science

Professor Bruce Lennox

Dean, Faculty of Science

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Tools

What is Minerva?

- McGill's web-based course administration system, available to students and applicants
 - Apply to McGill
 - Look up class schedule
 - Register for courses
 - Apply for deferred or supplemental exams
 - Apply for Inter or intra-faculty transfer
 - Keep your personal contact information up to date.

- Help Line: (514) 398- 4474



What is Visual Schedule Builder?

- McGill's web-based application to help students build potential class schedule options prior to and during registration periods.
- VSB arranges entered courses into possible conflict-free timetables and displays them in an easy-to-read weekly schedule
- Go to <https://vsb.mcgill.ca/> or follow link from *myMcGill*.



The McGill E-Mail Account...

- Is the official email account that Faculty and Staff use to correspond with students
- Can still be your email address after you graduate
- Is configured as:
firstname.lastname@mail.mcgill.ca
- Should be checked regularly for important information from the University
- Is the main source of contact between you and your advisor.
- Service Desk: 514-398-3398

myCourses

- McGill's online course management system.
- Course sections are automatically created for all courses offered at McGill.
- Students automatically have access to the courses in which they are formally enrolled.
- May include online discussion forums

The McGill Library System

www.mcgill.ca/library/

Use the Library	Find	Subject guides
Library account	Books	Agriculture & environmental sciences
Questions? Ask Us!	Articles	Art, architecture & urban planning
Branch libraries	Journals	Education
Hours	Databases	Engineering
Room booking	Course reserves	Health & biological sciences
Scan / Print / Copy	Course guides	Humanities
Borrowing books, etc	Citation guides & software	Law
Interlibrary loan (ILL)	Dictionaries & writing tools	Management & business
Computer finder	Newspapers	Music
Workshops	Audio/visual materials	Physical sciences
Librarians	Theses & dissertations	Social sciences

McGill student ID Cards

- Entrance to the gym
- Entrance to, and use of the library
- Writing final exams
- Access to health and other support services
- Get it at Service Point
- www.mcgill.ca/students/records/id

If you lose your ID card....

- <http://www.mcgill.ca/students/records/id/>
- You can get your student card at the Service Point, 3415 Mc Tavish St.
- There is a replacement fee.

ADVISING

What is Academic Advising?

- A collaborative relationship between a student and an academic advisor.
- To help you to develop meaningful educational goals that are consistent with your personal interests, values and abilities
- We want to help you make the most of your time at McGill
- **SOUSA**: The Science Office for Undergraduate Student Advising
- Located in Dawson Hall fourth floor

www.mcgill.ca/science/sousa/

What do Academic Advisors do?

- program and course selection
 - course registration
 - Deadlines
 - credit load
 - Research opportunities
 - Internship opportunities
 - Study away and Exchange opportunities
 - Career and graduate school options
 - managing academic situations during difficult periods.
- They provide referrals to the many other offices dedicated to assisting students at McGill.

How Your Adviser Can Help You

- Your SOUSA adviser can help you choose a program that suits your academic goals, based on your interests, abilities, and *future plans*.
- Your adviser can help you complement your classroom activities by helping you to get involved in research, internships, field studies, and other related activities at McGill
- Your SOUSA advisor can also help you explore alternatives as your interests evolve and perhaps change.

What is a Peer Assistant?

- SOUSA Peer Assistants (SURPASS) are specially trained students completing a B.Sc. or B.A.&Sc. Degree
 - Provide references to university resources,
 - Help you navigate McGill's website, Minerva, and MyCourses,
 - Discuss their experiences with McGill courses and programs
 - Discuss their experiences adapting to University life
 - Explain the registration process

Your SOUSA TEAM!

- Nicole Allard (Director)
- Peter Barry (Chief Adviser)
- Vanessa Hansen (Academic Adviser)
- TBA (Academic Adviser)
- Paul Olioiff (Academic Adviser)
- Jane Hawes (Student Adviser, Assistant to Director)
- Mary Gauthier (Student Adviser, Assistant to Chief)
- Ryan Bouma (Interdisciplinary Programs Advisor)
- Joan Kaylor (Administrative coordinator)
- Izabela Bryniarska (Administrative coordinator)

www.mcgill.ca/science/sousa

Science Orientation Booklet

<http://www.mcgill.ca/science/student/newstudents>

2014 - 2015



Welcome to the Faculty of Science!

Science Office for Undergraduate Student Advising
(SOUSA)

Dawson Hall, Room 405

853 Sherbrooke Street West – Montreal, QC – H3A 0G5

514-398-5442

www.mcgill.ca/science/student

Getting a good start in your first year

Welcome to McGill! Now that you have had a chance to settle in, the SOUSA advising team would like to help you begin your McGill career successfully. We have prepared this pamphlet to help you organize your priorities as you begin your university studies. Use the “Important Dates” listing and the to-do lists that apply to you to plan your year so that you know what to do and when to do it. Read through the “Advising FAQs” to learn how to resolve common issues. Consult the “Other Resources” section to get an idea of all of the services that are available to you on campus.

DAWSON HALL
853 SHERBROOKE
ST OUEST



Departmental Advising

- You will also have a departmental or program adviser.
- Once you declare a program, you must consult the departmental adviser for approval of your course selection.
- Departmental advisers also assist students in realistic and meaningful program planning.
- Departmental advisers are responsible for the programs administered by their departments.

Advising Activities this week....

Wednesday September 2nd:

Freshman Program Information Session

New Residence Hall Ballroom A

3625 Avenue du Parc

9:30 – 10:30 or 11:00 - 12:00

Advising Activities this week....

Wednesday September 2nd -September 3rd

Departmental Program Orientation Sessions

www.mcgill.ca/science/files/science/sciorient_2015.pdf

FACULTY OF SCIENCE - Program Orientation Session 2015-2016 for newly admitted students
 August 31st, September 2nd and 3rd

SCIENCE DEPT/PROGRAM	DEPT/PROGRAM LOCATION	Phone (514) 398-	ORIENTATION SESSION
Anatomy and Cell Biology	Strathcona Anatomy & Dentistry Building Room M-30	6335	September 3, Strathcona Anatomy & Dentistry Building, 10:00 – 11:00 a.m., SADB Room 1/12. For U1 students (U0 also welcome).
Atmospheric & Oceanic Science	Burnside Hall, Room 945	3764	September 3, Burnside Hall, Room 945, at 3:00 p.m. For both U0 and U1 students.
Biochemistry	McIntyre Medical Sciences Building, Room 905	2423	September 3, McIntyre Medical Science Building Room 1034, at 12:30-1:30 p.m. For U1 students only.
Biology	Stewart Biology Building, Room W4/13	4109	September 2, Stewart Biological Science Building Room N2/2, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. For U1 students; U0 also welcome.
Chemistry	Otto Maass Chemistry Building Room 322	5536	September 3, Otto Mass, Room 217, 1:00-2:00 p.m. For U1 Chemistry students.
Cognitive Science	Ryan Bouma, Dawson Hall, Room 405	7330	September 2, 11:30 – 1 p.m., Arts Building, Room 260.
Computer Science	Lorne M. Trottier Building Room 2060	7071 ext. 00739	September 3, 1–3 p.m., Lorne M. Trottier Building, Room 2100. For both U0 and U1 students.
Earth & Planetary Sciences	Frank Dawson Adams Building Room 238	4402	September 11, Frank Dawson Adams Building, Room 232, at 4:00 p.m. For both U0 and U1 students.
Earth System Science	Frank Dawson Adams Building Room 238	2596	September 11, Frank Dawson Adams Building, Rm. 232, at 3:30 p.m. For both U0 and U1 students.
Environment	McGill School of Environment, 3534 University	4306	September 3, Main Floor Conference Room at 3534 University Street, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. For both U0 and U1 students.
Freshman Program	Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.)	5442	September 2 nd , New Residence Hall (3625 Avenue du Parc), 9:30 to 10:30 OR 11:00 to 12:00.
Freshman Program	Bachelor of Arts & Science (B.A. & Sc.)	5442	September 2 nd , ARTS Building, Room W-20, 10:00 to 11:00.
Geography	Burnside Hall, Room 705	4951	September 10, Burnside Hall, Room 426, from 10:30 –11:30 p.m. For both U0 and U1 students.

Advising Activities this week....

SOUSA Advisors are available for drop-in:

Wednesday Sept. 2nd & Thursday Sept. 3rd

Arts Building room 145

10:00 am -3:30 pm

Friday Sept. 4th (to the end of the year)

Dawson Hall, fourth floor room 405

10:00 am -3:30 pm

[www. McGill.ca/science/student](http://www.Mcgill.ca/science/student)

Admissions Groups BSc Degree

- **Physical, Earth, Math & Computer Science**

Atmospheric Science

Chemistry

Computer Science

Earth and Planetary Sciences

Earth System Science

Environment

Geography

Mathematics

Physics

Biology & Mathematics Computer Science & Biology Physiology & Mathematics Physiology & Physics

- ***Biological, Biomedical & Life Sciences***

Anatomy & Cell Biology

Biochemistry

Biology

Microbiology and Immunology

Pharmacology

Physiology

Psychology

- **Neuroscience (B.Sc. U1 students)**

Degree Structures- BSC

The Liberal Program- Broad Interests

- A 45-50 credit Core Science Component (CSC) from your admission group.
- Combined with a breadth component 18 to 50 credits.
 - Minor in Arts, Science, Education, Management (18-24 credits).
 - Major concentration in Arts (36 credits).
 - Second Core Science component (45-50 credits) from any admission group.
- Provides some depth in one core area, while allowing you to explore one or two secondary interests, and possibly still have room for elective courses.
- Allows you to combine two science disciplines of equal interest, while still allowing for some elective courses.

Degree Structures –BSc

Major Program- Depth and Flexibility

- Major Program: 54-72 credits chosen from your admission group.
- Select a single-discipline (Biology, Chemistry), joint major (Physiology & Math) or interdisciplinary major (Environment) from your admission group.
- May combine with a minor, or focus on broad selection of elective courses.
- Easy to switch between B.Sc. Major, Liberal and Honours programs within your group

Degree Structures –BSc Honours – Most Specialized

- Honours programs: 60 – 81 credits
- Can choose from single-discipline, joint or interdisciplinary honours programs available in your admission group.
- GPA requirements (usually at least 3.0).
- More credits than a major, fewer electives.
- Greatest opportunity to take higher-level seminars and research project courses and excellent preparation for graduate studies.
- May be able to add a minor, depending on program
- Honours programs are normally declared at the beginning of U2, except for Math and Physics.

How Your Adviser Can Help You

- Your SOUSA adviser can help you determine if your current program suits your academic needs based on your interests, abilities, and future goals.
- Your SOUSA adviser will ask you questions about your experience at McGill and work with you to determine whether or not you have to change your plan.

ADVANCED STANDING

- www.mcgill.ca/students/transfercrredit
- Credits granted due to previous education
 - International Baccalaureate (IB)
 - French Baccalaureate
 - European Baccalaureate
 - Advanced Level Exams (A-Levels)
 - Advanced Placement Exams (APs)
- Appear on your transcript
- Count towards your 120 credits
- Can satisfy prerequisites and Freshman Program requirements
- If you have advanced standing for a course, you cannot repeat that course for credit at McGill
- If unsure, ask an advisor.

ADVANCED STANDING

- What is the difference between U0 and U1?
 - based on the number of advanced standing credits granted
 - U0 - Less than 24 credits of advanced standing
 - U1 - 24 or more credits of advanced standing
 - U0/U1 is unrelated to the freshman program
 - You could be admitted to U1 and still have to complete the freshman program
- What's REALLY important is:
 - How many credits do you need to complete for your degree? (120 total!)
 - Are your ***freshman program*** requirements met?

What is a normal course load?

- Four to five courses or 12 to 15 credits per term.
- Professional programs (medicine, law, dentistry) normally prefer a 30 credit course load and five courses per term.
- If you work or participate in varsity sports you may need to reduce your load.
- Important for scholarship eligibility.

The S/U option

- You cannot add the s/u option after the course change period
- You cannot use a course graded under the s/u option for any program (major, minor, freshman, etc...)
- A maximum of 10% of your credits completed at McGill can be taken under this option.
- Not available to U0 students, only U1-U3.

Key Registration Deadlines

- Course change period – ends **September 22**.
Deadline to drop courses, select s/u option.
- Withdrawal with refund deadline – **September 29**.
Deadline to web withdraw from a course with a refund.
- Withdrawal deadline – **November 3**. Deadline to withdraw from a course with no refund.
- Classes start Friday **September 4** (Monday Schedule).

Science Internship Program

- Paid, full-time work term in a field related to your studies.
- From 4 to 16 months in duration
- Allows you to apply theory to practice
- Increases job prospects after graduation
- Science Internship Officer: Martine Dolmière

www.mcgill.ca/science/programs/internships

Science Field Study Opportunities

- Put theory into practice through local, regional, and international programs and courses.
- Provide practical experience and a chance to integrate and apply knowledge gained in the classroom.
- Semester-long programs in:
 - Africa (cancelled for 2015/2016)
 - Barbados
 - Panama
 - Arctic
- Various shorter field courses also available
- Martine Dolmière;

www.mcgill.ca/science/programs/field

Office for Undergraduate Research in Science (OURS)

- Research is the cornerstone of an undergraduate education.
- **Office for Undergraduate Research**
 - Independent Research Courses
 - Summer research fellowships
 - Research assistantships, paid or volunteer
 - DMURL *Dean's multidisciplinary undergraduate research list*
- Science Research Officer: Victor Chisholm

www.mcgill.ca/science/research/ours/

Opportunities to Study Away

- Ideal time to go is in U2
- **Exchanges:** Must apply by the end of the fall term, U1!!!
- **Visiting Student:** Arranged on your own; pay host university fees.
 - Application deadlines set by host university, usually in the winter term, or later.
- A great way to travel, meet other students, and see how courses from your program are taught in a different environment
- Contact: Mary Gauthier – mary.gauthier@mcgill.ca
www.mcgill.ca/science/student/general/studyaway/

B.Sc. Global Designation

Recognizes (B.Sc.) students who have gone beyond a typical B.Sc. experience by broadening their horizons through:

1. Learning a new language
2. Completing an independent research course
3. Including the "real-world" in their degree program.
 - a) Participating in a university exchange/visiting semester
 - b) Completing an internship or industrial practicum
 - c) completing a field studies semester or at least 6 field studies credits
 - d) Completing 6 credits of "Global courses" at McGill

You can apply for the Global designation in your final year after you have completed all components.

www.mcgill.ca/science/student/bsc-global

The Grade Point Average (GPA)...

- 4 point scale
 - A = 4.0, B = 3.0, C = 2.0, D=1.0
- Determines student standing:
 - unsatisfactory, satisfactory, or probationary
- Determines eligibility for scholarships and honours programs
- Determines eligibility for graduate and professional programs, especially in upper level years.

Key Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) milestones

- 2,00 CGPA – required to graduate
- 3,00 CGPA – minimum required for Honours programs
- 3,5 CGPA – minimum required for First Class Honours
- 3,7 CGPA – required to maintain Entrance Scholarships

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

- Every student has a right to a quality education. The University's corresponding obligation is fulfilled where:
 - the University offers an education capable of providing students with an adequate level of competence in the relevant field of study
 - the University makes every reasonable effort to maintain the quality of education it dispenses
- (Handbook on Student Rights and Responsibilities, Ch.1, Section IX; 2009)

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

- *“The integrity of University academic life and of the degrees the University confers is dependent upon the honesty and soundness of the teacher-student learning relationship and, as well, of the evaluation process. Conduct by any member of the University community that adversely affects this relationship or this process must, therefore, be considered a serious offence.”*
- (Handbook on Student Rights and Responsibilities, Ch.6, Section III Introduction; 2009)

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

- *McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures”.*
— *Senate resolution, January 29, 2003*
- www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

- Mandatory Academic Integrity online tutorial for all newly admitted students.
- *AAAA 100 Academic Integrity Tutorial*
– *(0 credits)*

What if you encounter difficulties?

- See your SOUSA or Departmental Adviser if you:
 - Are having difficulty managing your time and meeting deadlines
 - Have fallen behind in your studies, and are feeling overwhelmed
 - Are not getting the grades you expected
 - Are unhappy with your course or program choice
 - Become ill, or experience difficulties in your personal life that are interfering with your academic performance
 - Are having Financial difficulties

STUDENT SERVICES

Student Services

- *Career Planning Services*
- *Counselling Services*
- *Office of Religious & Spiritual Life*
- *International Student's Services*
- *Campus Life & Engagement*
- *Health Services*
- *Mental Health Services*
- *Off Campus Housing*
- *Tutoring Services*
- *Dean of Students Office*
- *Scholarships and Student Aid*
- *First People's House*
- *Office of Students with Disabilities*

What to do now?....

- 1. Right now:** Attend our Science program fair – departmental advisors are here to answer your questions
- 2. Tomorrow:** Attend a Departmental Orientation session or a Freshman Program Orientation Session
- 3. Wednesday to Friday:** See your SOUSA advisor between 10:00 am -3:30 pm in:
 - Arts Bldg room 145: Wednesday & Thursday
 - Dawson Hall, room 405: Friday
- 4. Friday September 4:** Classes start
SOUSA advisors will be in Dawson Hall, 4th floor, 10:00-4:00 pm drop-in only until Sept. 22.

www.mcgill.ca/science/student

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