DISCOVER MCGILL 2017

Faculty of Science
Nicole Allard
Director, Advising Services
Professor Bruce Lennox

Dean, Faculty of Science
HANDY TOOLS
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
SOUZA: ADVISING
What is SOUSA?

- We provide Faculty level academic advising.
- You have each been assigned a SOUSA advisor.
- Main information and referral source for anything related to your academics.

www.mcgill.ca/science/student
DAWSON HALL
853
SHERBROOKE ST
OUEST
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/student/
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.
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)
- Paul Olioff  (Academic Adviser)
- Curtis Sharman  (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)
- Olivia Sanalitro  (Administrative coordinator)

www.mcgill.ca/science/student
PREVIOUS EDUCATION
Quebec CEGEP/IB

Credits Required for B Arts and Science - 126 credits

Fall 2016
Bachelor of Arts and Science
Full-time Year 1
Interfaculty Program Cognitive Science
Minor Concentration History

Credits/Exemptions
From Vanier College - 30 credits
CHEM 212
MATH 133

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<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Cr / C.E.U.</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
<th>Earned</th>
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TERM GPA: 3.72
CUM GPA: 3.72
Welcome to the Faculty of Science!

Science Office for Undergraduate Student Advising (SOUA)

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 as a Bachelor of Science Student

Welcome to McGill! 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.
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....

August 29th, 30th and 31st

Departmental Program Orientation Sessions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCIENCE DEPT/PROGRAM</th>
<th>DEPT/PROGRAM LOCATION</th>
<th>Phone (514) 398-</th>
<th>ORIENTATION SESSION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anatomy and Cell Biology</td>
<td>Strathcona Anatomy &amp; Dentistry Building, Room M-30</td>
<td>6335</td>
<td>August 30, Strathcona Anatomy &amp; Dentistry Building, at 10:00 a.m., SADB Room 1/12, For U1 students (U0 also welcome).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Atmospheric &amp; Oceanic Science</td>
<td>Burnside Hall, Room 945</td>
<td>3764</td>
<td>August 31, Burnside Hall, Room 945, at 3:00 p.m., For both U0 and U1 students.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biochemistry</td>
<td>McIntyre Medical Sciences Building, Room 905</td>
<td>2423</td>
<td>August 30, McIntyre Medical Sciences Building, Room 1034, at 12:30 p.m., For U1 students only.</td>
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<td>Biology</td>
<td>Stewart Biology Building, Room W4/13</td>
<td>4109</td>
<td>August 30, Stewart Biological Science Building, Room S1/3, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m., For U1 students; U0 also welcome.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>Otto Maass Chemistry Building, Room 322</td>
<td>5536</td>
<td>August 30, Otto Maass, Room 217, at 1:00 p.m., For U1 Chemistry students.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cognitive Science</td>
<td>Ryan Bouma, Dawson Hall, Room 405</td>
<td>7330</td>
<td>August 30, 11:30 a.m., Arts Building, Room 260.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Science</td>
<td>Lorne M. Trottier Building, Room 2060</td>
<td>7071 ext. 00739</td>
<td>August 31, 1:00 to 3:30, McConnell Engineering Building, Room 12, For both U0 and U1 students.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Earth &amp; Planetary Sciences</td>
<td>Frank Dawson Adams Building, Room 238</td>
<td>4402</td>
<td>September 8, Frank Dawson Adams Building, Room 232, at 9:30a.m.-10:25a.m., For both U0 and U1 students.</td>
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<td>Earth System Science</td>
<td>Frank Dawson Adams Building, Room 238</td>
<td>2596</td>
<td>September 8, Frank Dawson Adams Building, Room 232, at 10:35 a.m. – 11:25 a.m., For both U0 and U1 students.</td>
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<td>Environment</td>
<td>McGill School of Environment, 3534 University</td>
<td>4306</td>
<td>September 7, Arts Building, Room 160, 11:00am., For both U0 and U1 students.</td>
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<td>Geography</td>
<td>Burnside Hall, Room 705</td>
<td>4951</td>
<td>September 5, Burnside Hall, Room 426, from 10:00 –11:00 a.m., For both U0 and U1 students.</td>
</tr>
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</table>
DEFINITIONS
Degree: Bachelor of Science

- an award conferred by a college or university signifying that the recipient has satisfactorily completed a course of study. Consists of one or more programs and elective credits.
  - 120 credits

Program: Freshman program, major, minor, honours, Interfaculty, etc...

- A course of academic study; a curriculum. Consists of Required and Complementary courses.

Faculty: Science

- A division or comprehensive branch of learning at a college or university - generally the name of your degree.

Department/School

- division of a school or college dealing with a particular field of knowledge- generally the name of your program.
Required Course
- Mandatory course that must be completed to fulfill the requirements of a program

Complementary Course
- Course selected from a restricted list, a particular subject area, or a discipline, used to meet program requirements

Elective Course
- Course which contributes to the overall degree (120 credits) but does not count toward the fulfillment of a specific program. Some restrictions may apply, but students have the most choice in selecting elective courses.
Course Change Period

- Period during which you may add or drop courses with no financial repercussions. These changes will not be reflected on your transcript.

- Deadline for fall courses: September 19
Course Withdrawal

- You may still “drop” a course after the course change period - there are two further deadlines:
  - Withdrawal with refund - September 26th
  - Withdrawal without refund - October 31st

- You will receive a grade of “W” for the course
- This is not calculated into your CGPA
- A “W” does not indicate any thing bad!!! (provided there aren’t a billion of them…)

- Normally you cannot withdraw from a course after the final deadline, unless there are exceptional, documented reasons for the request.
POLICIES, RULES & INFORMATION
The S/U grading option

- “Satisfactory/unsatisfactory”
- Use on electives only
- Maximum of 10% of your total McGill credits
- Select this during the course change period
- Not available to U0 students

- Be sure to double check when selecting or deselecting this grading option because after the course change deadline You will not be able to switch it again, for any reason.
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.
Courses in Faculties outside of Arts and Science

- Maximum of 18 credits
- Only some are acceptable for credit
- Must check web site:

  www.mcgill.ca/science/student/continuingstudents/bsc/outside
Final Exams

- The final exam schedule will be posted on Minerva in October.

- DO NOT book travel before the exam schedule is released.

- “Vacation plans do not constitute grounds for the deferral or re-scheduling of final exams.”

www.mcgill.ca/students/exams/
Deferring Final Exams

- If you are unable to write a final exam due to illness or another serious reason,
- Apply online (MINERVA) for a deferral
- Must provide documentation
- Decision is made by Service Point, not the professor
- Assuming your request is approved, you will be permitted to write it during the next deferred exam period (Normally three months later)

www.mcgill.ca/students/exams/supdefer/
Deferring Midterms and assignments:

If, due to illness or another serious reason, you cannot write a midterm exam or test:

- Speak to Professor regarding options: It will be either a make-up exam or reweighting of course assignments, as indicated on syllabus.
- If reweighting, final exam cannot be made worth more than 75% of your final grade unless you so choose.
- Method of accommodation is decided by professor, and is non-negotiable.
- You must provide documentation
- Decision is made by Professor
Requesting extensions for assignments:

If, due to illness or another serious reason, you cannot submit an assignment on time:

- Ask professor for extension
- If approved extension goes beyond last day of class, you will receive a temporary grade of “K” (incomplete)
- You must provide documentation
- Decision is made by Professor
Doing extra work to raise your grade?

Unless otherwise indicated on the course syllabus, the professor is NOT allowed to give you extra work, not to let you rewrite or re-submit any assignments in order to raise your course grade.

There are no exceptions to this rule.
Can I choose NOT to declare my advanced standing or transfer credits?

- NO.
- At McGill, you are required to report all of your advanced standing credits.
- Reason: Equity.
Are there any rules or procedures you haven’t mentioned?

- Probably....
- You must read the “University Regulations and General Information” and “About the Faculty of Science (Undergraduate)” sections of the online calendar in order to ensure that you are familiar with all of the regulations and procedures pertaining to your degree.
- Links to the relevant sections can be found in the Welcome to Science Booklet.
Admissions Groups

- **Physical, Earth, Math & Computer Science**
  - Atmospheric Science
  - Chemistry
  - Computer Science
  - Earth and Planetary Sciences
  - Earth System Science
  - Environment
  - Geography
  - Mathematics
  - Physics

- **Biological, Biomedical & Life Sciences**
  - Anatomy & Cell Biology
  - Biochemistry
  - Biology
  - Microbiology and Immunology
  - Pharmacology
  - Physiology
  - Psychology

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

- Select a program when entering U1

Major Program from your admission group:
  - Core focus of your university studies
  - 54-72 credits

Honours Program from your admission group:
  - More specialized
  - 60-81 credits
  - Normally declare in U2
Your B.Sc. Programs

B.Sc. Liberal:

- Provides the most breadth
- Core Science component (CSC from your admission group: 45-49 credits)
- Second program in another discipline
  - Minor in Science (18-24 credits)
  - Minor in Arts (18 credits)
  - Minor in Management, Education, Music (18 credits)
- Another CSC (45-49 credits, but some overlap allowed; from any admission group)
Your B.Sc. Programs

Minors (18-24 credits) - Optional

- Could also simply take a variety of elective courses
- Can be chosen from any Science admission group
- Includes any Arts minor concentration
- Includes Minors in Management and Education
- Can be declared in U1 or U2
SCIENCE FRESHMAN PROGRAM
Your Freshman Program

- Consists of seven (7) courses
  - 23-27 credits, depending on courses chosen
  - May be able to take one or two electives

- Structure
  - 2 math courses + 4 foundational Sciences + 1 complementary Science
    - OR
  - 3 math courses + 3 foundational Sciences + 1 complementary Science
Math course options:

- MATH 133 Linear Algebra and Geometry
- MATH 134 Enriched Linear Algebra and Geometry
- MATH 139 Calculus
- MATH 140 Calculus 1
- MATH 150 Calculus A
- MATH 141 Calculus 2
- MATH 151 Calculus B
Your Freshman Program (3)

Foundational Science course options:

- BIOL 111 Organismal Biology
- BIOL 112 Cell and Molecular Biology
- CHEM 110 General Chemistry 1
- CHEM 120 General Chemistry 2

- PHYS 101 Intro Physics - Mechanics
- PHYS 131 Mechanics and Waves

- PHYS 102 Intro Physics - Electromagnetism
- PHYS 142 Electromagnetism and Optics
Your Freshman Program (4)

Special rules regarding Freshman Physics:

- If you have received advanced standing for
  - PHYS 101 Intro Physics - Mechanics and/or
  - PHYS 102 Intro Physics - Electromagnetism

- You are allowed (but not required) to take the following for credit:
  - PHYS 131 Mechanics and Waves
  - PHYS 142 Electromagnetism and Optics
Your Freshman Program (5)

Complementary Science course options:

- Any of the previously listed MATH and Foundational Science courses
- ATOC 100 Extreme Weather & Climate Change
- COMP 202 Intro to Computing 1
- ESYS 104 The Earth System
- GEOG 205 Global Change: Past, Present & Future
- PSYC 100 Intro to Psychology

www.mcgill.ca/science/student/newstudents/u0/bscfreshman/requirements/
Your Freshman Program (6)

- Program Specific advice

www.mcgill.ca/science/student/newstudents/u0/bsc
freshman/specific/
ADVANCED STANDING
ADVANCED STANDING (1)

- www.mcgill.ca/students/transfercredit

- 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.
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?
NIFTY THINGS IN SCIENCE
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
  - Barbados
  - Panama
  - Arctic
- Various shorter field courses also available
- Martine Dolmière; www.mcgill.ca/science/programs/field
Office for Undergraduate Research in Science

- 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
GENERAL ADVICE
Register for both terms now

If a course has a lab component, also register for a lab.

Schedule your required courses for your program first, then fit elective and complementary courses into your schedule.

If a required course is full, keep trying for a couple of weeks. If nothing opens up, contact the departmental advisor by email.

If an elective or complementary course is full, try another course.

Just because MINERVA lets you register does not automatically mean you will get credit for a course. If in doubt, ask advisor.
Students are sometimes surprised by how challenging the midterm exams can be.

- Keep up with the course work as much as possible; you will find that the independent studying required is quite different from high school or CEGEP.

- Start studying early, as you may have many exams in a short time period.

- If you are having difficulty in a course, see the professor or teaching assistant early; don’t wait.
General Academic advice

“Everyone else seems to be managing fine, what’s wrong with me?”

- Advisors hear this fairly frequently
- So if you are having trouble managing, you are definitely not alone. Everyone else probably thinks you’re doing fine.....

If you feel overwhelmed, tell someone.

- Talk to your advisor, either in SOUSA or in the department.
- Talk to your professor or Teaching Assistant
- Attend McGill workshops for time management, stress management and study skills
- Individual and group counselling and tutoring services are also available
Dates and Deadlines

- Classes begin Tuesday September 5th
- Course change period - ends September 19th. Deadline to drop courses, select s/u option.
- Withdrawal with refund deadline - September 26th. Deadline to web withdraw from a course with a refund.
- Withdrawal deadline - October 31st. Deadline to withdraw from a course with no refund.
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)
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

- 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 in the Stewart Bio Courtyard

2. **Wednesday to Friday:** See your SOUSA advisor between 10:00 am -3:30 pm in:
   - **Arts Bldg room W-120:** Wednesday & Thursday
   - **Dawson Hall, room 405:** Friday

3. **Tuesday September 5:** Classes start
   
   SOUSA advisors will be in Dawson Hall, 4th floor, 10:00am-4:00 pm drop-in only until Sept. 19.

www.mcgill.ca/science/student