



# CEGEP STUDENT ORIENTATION

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE  
MCGILL**





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**DIRECTOR, ADVISING SERVICES**



# 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](mailto: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

- Used in approximately 1500 courses per term by thousands of students.
- 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/](http://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 them at Service Point as of June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014.
- 
- [www.mcgill.ca/students/records/id](http://www.mcgill.ca/students/records/id)

# If you lose your ID card....

- [www.mcgill.ca/students/records/id/](http://www.mcgill.ca/students/records/id/)
- You can get your student card at the Service Point,  
3415 Mc Tavish St.
- There is a \$25 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/](http://www.mcgill.ca/science/sousa/)

# What do Academic Advisors do?

- They help you to with:
  - 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 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 Web CT,
  - 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)
- Zelda Ghan (Academic Adviser)
- Paul Olioﬀ (Academic Adviser)
- Wendy Brett (Interdisciplinary programs advisor)
- Jane Hawes (Student Adviser, Assistant to Director)
- Mary Gauthier (Student Adviser, Assistant to Chief)
- Joan Kaylor (Administrative coordinator)
- Melissa Cobbler (Administrative coordinator)

[www.mcgill.ca/science/sousa](http://www.mcgill.ca/science/sousa)

# DAWSON HALL

## 853 SHERBROOKE ST OUEST





# 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.

# 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.
- <http://www.mcgill.ca/science/contact/departments>

# 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**

# Degree Structures- BSC

## The Liberal Program- Broad Interests

- A 45-50 credit **Core Science Component (CSC)**.
- 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).
- Provides some depth in one core area, while allowing the student to explore one or two secondary interests, and possibly still have room for elective courses.
- Allows student 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
- Can select a single-discipline (Atmospheric Science, Chemistry), joint major (Physiology & Physics, Math & Computer Science) or interdisciplinary major (Environment).
- 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.
- 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.

# Bachelor of Arts and Science: Multi-track Programs

- 36 credit Science Program + 36 credit Arts Program
  - major concentration Arts + major concentration Science
  - Joint Honours component Arts + Joint Honours component Science
- Required integrative course BASC 201 *Arts & Science Integrative Topics*
  - Recommended that you take this in U1
- May only register for programs listed in the BA&Sc section of the Undergraduate Calendar

# Bachelor of Arts and Science: Interfaculty Programs

- 54-credit program which combine courses from both Arts and Science
  - Environment
  - Cognitive Science
  - Sustainability, Science and Society
- 60-credit Honours programs are also available
- Interfaculty and Honours programs must be combined with an 18-credit minor in either Arts or Science.
- Must have 21 credits of Arts courses and 21 credits of Science courses within the interfaculty or honours and minor programs.





# 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/transfercredit](http://www.mcgill.ca/students/transfercredit)
- You all get 30 credits (1 year) advanced standing in a 4-year degree, due to CEGEP .
- In other words, you are all in a 3-year degree, with 90 credits to complete
- You may have been exempted from certain courses due to your CEGEP studies:
  - CHEM 212, 222
  - MATH 203, 222
- If unsure, ask an advisor.

# 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 a program; it can be used only on elective courses.
- You cannot grade more than 10% of your credits completed AT McGill under this option.

# Dates and Deadlines

- Course Registration begins Monday **June 9<sup>th</sup>**.
- Classes begin Tuesday **September 2<sup>nd</sup>**.
- Course change period – ends **September 16<sup>th</sup>**.  
Deadline to drop courses, select s/u option.
- Withdrawal with refund deadline – **September 23<sup>rd</sup>**.  
Deadline to web withdraw from a course with a refund.
- Withdrawal deadline - **October 14<sup>th</sup>**. Deadline to  
withdraw from a course with no refund.

# 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](http://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 (coming soon....)
- Various shorter field courses also available
- Martine Dolmière;  
[www.mcgill.ca/science/programs/field](http://www.mcgill.ca/science/programs/field)

# Office for Undergraduate Research in Science (OURS)

- Research is the cornerstone of an undergraduate education.
- Faculty of Science created an **Office for Undergraduate Research** to help students to take advantage of the many research opportunities available to them.
  - Independent Research Courses
  - Summer research fellowships
  - Research assistantships, paid or volunteer
- [www.mcgill.ca/science/ours](http://www.mcgill.ca/science/ours)
- Science Research Officer: Victor Chisholm



# 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](mailto:mary.gauthier@mcgill.ca)

# 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 status
- 3,5 CGPA – minimum required for First Class Honours
- 3,7 CGPA – required to maintain Entrance Scholarships

# 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/](http://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)*
- [www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/](http://www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/)

# What if you encounter difficulties?

- See your SOUSA 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
  - Having Financial difficulties



# STUDENT SERVICES



# Student Services

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



# Other Questions?

