Department of Anatomy & Cell Biology

Re-Orientation and Q & A session for returning ACB students

August 29, 2023

1:30 – 2:30 pm

ACB program options

- **Liberal program** – 47-48 credits
  - Must also complete a Science Minor or Arts Minor/Major Concentration
  - Good for students who want a broader focus and to study in two different areas
  - Most flexible program option

- **Major program** – 67 credits
  - Most students complete this program option

- **Honours program** – 73 credits
  - Entry after U1 year/completion of all U1 courses and requires a minimum CGPA of 3.2
  - Make sure you complete BIOL 301 in U2 if you're considering this option
  - Includes completion of 9-credit ANAT 432 Honours Research Project in U3
    - Either full-time in the Summer semester before U3 or over Fall/Winter of U3 (4.5 credits in each semester)

Important Reminders about BSc degree

- All students in the BSc must complete a minimum of 120 total degree credits to graduate
  - For students from CEGEP: 90 credits a McGill + 30 credits advanced standing from DEC
- Students with advanced standing from high school (NOT from CEGEP or university) can complete up to 120 credits at McGill without exceeding the credit limit for the BSc
- Students who have a course exemption for CHEM 212, CHEM 222 or statistics will replace these credits with electives/Minor program courses
  - Verify that the exemption is visible on your Unofficial Transcript in Minerva
  - If you think you should have an exemption, but don't see one, contact your Science advisor at SOUSA

Program-related reminders

- A minimum grade of C is required in ALL program courses (Required and Complementary)
- If you repeat a course that you received a D grade in the first time you took it, you will NOT receive credit for it a second time
  - Make sure you take this into consideration when planning out the credits needed o complete your degree
- Students completing a Minor program must have at least 18 unique credits just for that program
  - For Minor programs of 24 credits or more, can overlap up to 6 credits with main program (if applicable)
  - Credits we automatically overlap:
    - **BIOT:** BIOL 200 & ANAT 212
    - **NEUR:** BIOL 200 & PHGY 209
    - **PHAR:** ANAT 212 & PHGY 209

Complementary Courses

- Students in the Major and Honours program must complete at least 6 credits of Complementary Courses at the 400-level or above
  - These courses can be from either the AAC list or the BOC list
  - Plan for these courses early and have backup options selected in case you can't get into popular classes
  - Don't count on EXMD 504, BIOT 505, ANAT 514 or ANAT 541 for this!
- Any substitute BOCs must be approved IN ADVANCE of taking the course
  - Any courses requested must be at the 400-level +
  - Must be offered by the Faculty of Science, biologically-oriented and related to the ACB program
  - Requests must explain why the course is an appropriate substitute for the ACB program and an explanation of how this course will fit within your program/career goals
  - Email request to: **undergradadvisor.acb@mcgill.ca** and include the current syllabus for the course

Elective courses

- Any courses that you take which are going to count towards the 120 credits you need for your BSc degree, but are not counting towards a program
- Students in the BSc can count any courses offered by the Faculty of Science or the Faculty of Arts towards their degree
  - Courses in other faculties (Education, Management, etc.) have to be on the approved lists in the SOUSA Undergraduate Handbook: **mcgill.ca/science/undergraduate/handbook**
- 396 courses are always electives (even ANAT 396)
- There is no "best" elective
  - Think about what you're most interested in learning, a skill you want to develop, a graduate/medical school requirement you may need to meet, etc.
  - Do you want to learn another language? Develop your communication skills? Learn about biomedical ethics? Take an intermediate statistics course?
- Even in U2/U3, the list of suggested electives for U0 students may be a good place to start when choosing courses
  - **mcgill.ca/science/undergraduate/new-students/firstyear/bscfreshman#Electives**

Planning for medical school applications

- Do your research now on the specific requirements for all the medical schools you may want to apply to
- Requirements for Canadian medical schools are compiled here: **afmc.ca/en/news-publications/admission-requirements**
  - Verify all current information on institution websites!
- Look for requirements about full-time studies/minimum number of credits per year/course level per year
  - E.g. Western requires at least two academic years with at least 30 credits
- Some medical schools require 6 credits of English courses/humanities/social sciences
  - E.g. UBC has a specific list of ENGL/WCOM courses accepted from McGill
- Note the new French-language proficiency requirement which applies to McGill's medical school starting in Fall 2023
- Related resources
  - MedSpecs: **medspecs.ssmu.ca**
  - Unofficial Guide to Canadian Med Schools: **canadianguidetomedschool.com**

Planning for graduate school applications

- Research the requirements for the programs you may want to apply to now
- Typically graduate schools are less concerned about course load or how long it takes to complete your degree
  - Full-time studies (12 credits + per semester) is fine
- Research-based programs (with a thesis) are usually looking for research experience at the undergraduate level
  - 396 course, ANAT 432, research courses in other departments, etc.
  - A reference letter from previous research supervisors is often key
- Some programs may have specific course requirements from undergrad
  - E.g. 12 credits of university-level quantitative courses for Bioengineering
- Many thesis programs will need a minimum CGPA/GPA + acceptance by a supervisor
  - E.g. MSc in Cell Biology: 3.0 CGPA or 3.2 GPA in last year years + supervisor acceptance
  - Contact potential supervisors early (especially for smaller or more popular labs), don't wait until the application deadline

Resources you may have forgotten about

- **Career Planning Service** – *career exploration, job hunting, post-undergrad plans*
  - **mcgill.ca/caps**
- **Local Wellness Advisor for Science** – *Fanny Gutiérrez-Meyers*
  - **mcgill.ca/wellness-hub/hub-clinical-services/hub-clinicians/local-wellness-advisors/**
- **MACSS** – *your dept students' society*
  - **macssmcgill.com**
- **McGill Writing Centre** – *writing courses and free writing tutoring*
  - **mcgill.ca/mwc**
- **Academic Skills workshops** – *test taking, study skills, dealing with procrastination*
  - **mcgill.ca/skills21/student-information/workshops**
- **Student Accessibility & Achievement (formerly OSD)** – *resources for all types of learners*
  - **mcgill.ca/access-achieve/learning**
- **TLS Learning Resources** – *time management, presentation skills, learning styles*
  - **mcgill.ca/tls/students/learning-resources**

Advising reminders

- Undergraduate Program Advisor: **Penny Kaill-Vinish**
  - **Email: undergradadvisor.acb@mcgill.ca**
  - **mcgill.ca/anatomy/undergraduate/advising**
- I'm the academic advisor for students in the Anatomy & Cell Biology program
  - Meet with me to discuss your ACB program planning, course selection, to check your ACB graduation requirements, research options, etc.
- You also have a **Science advisor at SOUSA**
  - Their name can be found on the top left of your Unofficial Transcript in Minerva
  - Meet with your advisor at SOUSA for your overall BSc degree planning, program selection/changes, questions about Freshman Program requirements/advanced standing, etc.
  - **mcgill.ca/science/undergraduate/advice/sousa**
- If you're doing a Minor program, you will have a second program advisor there as well
- You should plan to check in with all your advisors once a year throughout your degree

ACB program advising

- Undergraduate Program Advisor: **Penny Kaill-Vinish**
  - **Email: undergradadvisor.acb@mcgill.ca**
  - **Advising schedule and appointment links: mcgill.ca/anatomy/undergraduate/advising**
- Virtual **drop-in advising sessions:** Aug. 31 – Sept. 12
  - Held on Zoom, no need to register in advance
  - Check the link above for dates/times
- **Online advising appointments:**
  - Through MS Teams, must be booked in advance