DISCOVER MCGILL 2019

Faculty of Science
B.A. & Sc. Degree Orientation

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B.A. & Sc. Advisor, SOUSA
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 West
Room 405
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.
Your SOUSA TEAM!

- Nicole Allard (Director)
- Peter Barry (Chief Adviser)
- Vanessa Hansen (Academic Adviser)
- Paul Olioff (Academic Adviser)
- Curtis Sharman (Academic Adviser)
- Tania Raggo (Student Adviser, BA&Sc degree)
- Jane Hawes (Student Adviser, Assistant to Director)
- Mary Gauthier (Student Adviser, Assistant to Chief)
- Ryan Bouma (Interdisciplinary Programs Advisor)
- Joan Kaylor (Administrative coordinator)
- Victor Chisholm (Student Affairs Administrator)

www.mcgill.ca/science/student

Your Science Wellness Advisor

- Melissa Cobbler
- Student Wellness Hub
- www.mcgill.ca/wellness-hub
**B.A.&Sc. Orientation Booklet**


- Important info on what you should be doing right now:
- To-do lists by student type (CEGEP, IB, FB, etc.)
- Important Dates
- Resources
- FAQs
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 26th, 28th, 29th, September 4th and 6th

Departmental Program Orientation Sessions

Program Orientation

- Cognitive Science: Ryan Bouma
  August 28th 11:30am, Arts Building, Room 260

- Environment: McGill School of the Environment
  August 28th 11:30am, LEA 424

- Sustainability, Science and Society
  Aug 28th 10am, Burnside Hall, room 426

DEFINITIONS
Degree: Bachelor of Arts & 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 concentration, minor concentration, joint 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, but not always.

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 17, 2019

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 anything 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.
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 12 credits
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.

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 the BA&Sc Booklet*. 
Bachelor of Arts and Science: Two options for program types

1. Two Major Concentrations (one Science + one Arts)
   • or Two Joint Honours (one Science+ one Arts)

2. One IFP + one Minor (Arts or Science)

   You **must** also take:
   • BASC 201 *Arts & Science Integrative Topics*
     (required course, recommended for U1, but definitely needed to GRADUATE!)

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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
    (only PSYC and MATH in Science)

• **BASC 201 Arts & Science Integrative Topics**
  • Required for your degree!
  • 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
- BASC 201 Arts & Science Integrative Topics
  - Required for your degree!
  - Recommended that you take this in U1
- 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.

What if you change your mind?

- Your adviser can help you determine if your current program suits your academic needs based on your interests, abilities, and future goals.

- Your 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.
B.A. & Sc. FRESHMAN PROGRAM

Your Freshman Program

- Has two components:
- Science
  - 2 MATH courses
  - 3 Science courses
- Arts
  - 3 Arts courses in 2 areas:
    - Humanities
    - Social Sciences
    - Languages
Your Freshman Program (2)

▶ 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: (at least one of these)

- 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)

- Complementary Science course options: (up to two of these)
  - COMP 202 Intro to Computing 1
  - ESYS 104 The Earth System
  - PSYC 100 Intro to Psychology

www.mcgill.ca/science/student/newstudents/u0/bascfreshman/requirements/

Your Freshman Program  (5)

- Program Specific advice
  Keep scrolling down on the Freshman Program Requirements page on the SOUSA website.

www.mcgill.ca/science/student/newstudents/u0/bascfreshman/requirements/
ADVANCED STANDING

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.
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.

ADVANCED STANDING (2)

- 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
Available to B.A.&Sc. students

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
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
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:** Tania Raggo tania.raggo@mcgill.ca

www.mcgill.ca/science/student/general/studyaway/

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**soup & science**

Learn about cutting-edge research over lunch with cool profs

September 9-13, 2019
11:30 AM
Redpath Museum

More information:
www.mcgill.ca/science
GENERAL ADVICE

REGISTRATION 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.
General Academic Advice

▶ 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 3rd

- Course change period - ends September 17th. Deadline to drop courses, select s/u option.

- Withdrawal with refund deadline - September 24th. Deadline to web withdraw from a course with a refund.

- Withdrawal deadline - October 29th. Deadline to withdraw from a course with no refund.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
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“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

- 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 Lobby on 5th and 6th floor.

2. **Wednesday to Friday:** See me between 10:00 am - 3:30 pm in:
   - Dawson Hall, room 405

3. **Tuesday September 3:** Classes start
   - I will be in Dawson Hall, 4th floor, 10:00am-4:00 pm drop-in only until Sept. 17.