

Bulletin 3: Summer 2016

Greetings from the Office of the Registrar & Student Services at St. Michael's College.

This is the third of eight bulletins. The focus of the bulletin this week is course selection. You will be tasked with choosing courses for the 2016-2017 Fall/Winter Session at the end of July, so our aim is to address the question: how should I decide which courses to take?

1. Choosing Courses with Programs in Mind

You might think that course selection is simply a matter of enrolling in those courses that look interesting to you. Open the Calendar and Timetable, find areas of interest, and pick some courses. Job done! Well, this would actually be a poor way of going about course selection.

As we noted in Bulletin 2, you should determine which course to enrol in based on *programs of interest*. Although program enrolment doesn't occur until a student has completed 4.0 FCEs (i.e., usually the end of first year), many programs in the Faculty of Arts & Science have admission requirements. This means that there are certain courses a student will need to complete in order to be admitted to the program. So, a general principle for course enrolment is this: if you're interested in pursuing program P, and admission to program P requires you to complete course C, then you should enrol in course C.

Now, while some programs have admission requirements, it's not the case that all programs do. In fact, some programs are *open enrolment*, which means that they have no admission requirements other than the completion of 4.0 FCEs. In order to discover whether a program has admission requirements, you should visit the [program listings](#). This is a comprehensive list of every program on offer in the Faculty of Arts & Science. Importantly, you will see that the middle column indicates the Type of program—this is how you determine whether a program has admission requirements. There are three types of programs:

- *Type 1* programs are open enrolment. (The only admission requirement is that you've successfully completed 4.0 FCEs.)
- *Type 2* programs are limited enrolment. (These programs requires certain courses and grades for admission.)
- *Type 3* programs are also limited enrolment. (While the requirements are similar to Type 2 courses, the application process doesn't occur on ACORN.)

We've now established how to determine whether a program has admission requirements. But if a program does—that is, it's a Type 2 or Type 3—how do you determinewhat the admission requirements are? The answer: consult the [Programs and Courses](#)

section of the Calendar. Click on the heading of the program you're interested in (e.g., Computer Science, Economics, Philosophy, etc.), and then click on the specific level of program you're interested in (i.e., specialist, major, or minor). This will allow you to see what the admission requirements are for the program you're interested in.

You should repeat this exercise for all of the programs that you are genuinely interested in. It might be the case, for example, that there are 3-4 programs that you are interested in potentially pursuing. Accordingly, you should look at the admission requirements for these 3-4 programs.

In order to make what we've just covered clear, let's consider an example. The situation we're considering is one where you, the student, are interested in different science programs. (Do not worry if you're actually interested in different (non-science) programs: this just an example to highlight the process you should go through.)

2. Course Selection Example

Let's suppose that there are four different programs you are interested in potentially pursuing:

- Cell & Molecular Biology specialist
- Human Biology: Neuroscience specialist
- Chemistry major
- Biology major

You're not yet sure which (combination) of these you will end up undertaking, but you want to leave open the possibility of doing any of them. (Good thinking!) To begin, you need to see which of these have admission requirements. (If you've not already done so, you would need to consult the [program listings](#) to see what types of programs these are.) The Biology major is a Type 1 (i.e., open enrolment) program, so you don't need to worry about satisfying any admission requirements during first year. However, the other three programs have admission requirements. What are they?

First, you should consult the [Cell & Molecular Biology specialist](#) section in the Calendar. You will see following:

"Enrolment...requires the completion of four courses, including [BIO120H1](#), [BIO130H1](#); ([CHM135H1](#), [CHM136H1](#))/(CHM138H1, CHM139H1)/[CHM151Y1](#); [JMB170Y1](#)/([MAT135H1](#), [MAT136H1](#))/[MAT137Y1](#)/[MAT157Y1](#)." (Remember: comas (,) and semi-colons (;) mean *and*, and dashes (/) mean *or*. So, if you want to pursue the Cell & Molecular Biology specialist, you need to enrol in:

- BIO120H1 and BIO130H1
- CHM135H1 and CHM136H1 or CHM151Y1
- JMB170Y1 *or* MAT135H1 and MAT136H1 *or* MAT137Y1 *or* MAT157Y1

Let's imagine you decide to enrol in (i) BIO120H1 and BIO130H1, (ii) CHM135H1 and CHM136H1, and (iii) MAT135H1 and MAT136H1. This is an appropriate combination of courses to select given the program admission requirements. So, you've currently picked out 3.0 FCEs to enrol in.

Next, you should check out the [Human Biology: Neuroscience specialist](#) section in the Calendar. What courses are required for admission to the program? There is actually a great deal of overlap between the courses required for Cell & Molecular Biology and the courses required for Neuroscience. Neuroscience requires BIO120H1 and BIO130H1, both of which you've already decided to take because of Cell & Molecular Biology. Neuroscience also requires CHM135H1 and CHM136 (or CHM151Y1). Finally, Neuroscience requires *one* of MAT135H1 or PHY131H1 or PHY151H1. Since you're already completing CHM135H1, CHM136H1, and MAT135H1 for Cell & Molecular Biology, you will also be enrolled in the right courses for admission to the Neuroscience specialist. Now, there is an additional course that you are recommended to take for Neuroscience: PSY100H1. This isn't a program *admission* requirement for Neuroscience, but it is a program *completion* requirement. Given that it's a first-year course—and could leave open other program possibilities—it would be prudent to take it. Thus, you should also pick PSY100H1, thus bringing you to 3.5 FCEs so far.

Given your interest in the [Chemistry major](#), you repeat the exercise of looking for the program admission requirements in the Calendar. You head to the Chemistry major section, and you see the following: "Courses for admission: [CHM135H1](#)/CHM139H1 and [CHM136H1](#)/CHM138H1 or [CHM151Y1](#) with a minimum mark of 63%." You're in luck: the admission requirements for Chemistry are also admission requirements for the two specialist programs you're interested in. So, you don't need to worry about taking additional courses for getting into this program.

Finally, the [Biology major](#) is an open enrolment program. This means that there are no admission requirements (other than the completion of 4.0 FCEs). So, strictly speaking, there are no first year-courses you must take. Nonetheless, you should consult the Calendar to look at the recommend first-year courses. They are: "[BIO120H1](#); [BIO130H1](#); [CHM135H1](#) (formerly CHM139H1), [CHM136H1](#) (formerly CHM138H1))/[CHM151Y1](#)" Again, the recommended first-year courses are ones you will already be taking.

So, after looking through the admission requirements for these four different programs of interest, you have picked out the following courses:

- BIO120H1
- BIO130H1
- CHM135H1
- CHM136H1
- MAT135H1
- MAT136H1
- PSY100H1

This brings to you 3.5 FCEs (7 x 0.5 H courses = 3.5 FCEs). On the assumption you want to enrol in 5.0 FCEs during the 2016-2017 Fall/Winter Session, you need to select an additional 1.5 FCEs. Which courses should you take? In order to determine how to use your final 1.5 FCEs, ask yourself:

- Are there any other programs—with admission requirements—that I'm potentially interested in?
- Are there any Breadth categories that I should try to satisfy this year?

- Are there any courses that simply seem particularly interesting to me?

There are many different ways to fill out the remaining 1.5 FCEs. The important point of our example is this: by consulting the Calendar to see which courses are required for admission to your programs of interest, you are putting yourself in a position to potentially pursue these programs. It is important to choose your first-year courses with programs in mind!

3. FAQs

We will close by looking at a few frequently asked questions about course selection.

Question 1. Do I pick courses for just the Fall Session or, rather, both the Fall *and* Winter Sessions?

You will be picking courses for the entirety of the 2016-2017 Fall/Winter Session (i.e., September-April).

Question 2. What is the last date for course enrolment?

There are two dates to keep in mind. The last day to add F and Y section code courses is September 25th. The last day to add S section code courses is January 18th. (Here are important dates for [2016 Fall](#) and [2017 Winter](#).)

Question 3. If I do not enjoy enrolment priority for a particular course, when will I be able to enrol in that course?

August 5th. You should see [here](#) to find out the time depending on your year of study. (For first-year students, the time is 12:00pm.)

In Bulletin 4, the focus will be some other course enrolment-related matters. Importantly, however, you are now in a position to think seriously about which courses to enrol in for the upcoming academic year. Create a plan well before July 28th so that you're not left scrambling at the last minute.

Regards,
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