innis college
academic orientation session
Strategies for Choosing Courses

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REGISTRAR
23 JUNE 2018

AGENDA
• course basics
• strategies for choosing courses
• registration instructions and the A&S timetable
• steps to register
• important dates
• Tips

*lots of minutiae ahead!* – remember, your Registrar’s Office is a reliable first stop for information and advice
BASICS: course codes in the timetable

CONSIDERATIONS

Fall/Winter

Sept to Dec

Y section

Jan to Apr

F section

S section
BASICS: reading a course description

How to read a course in the Calendar (e.g. CHM135H1)

• 3-letter course designator = sponsoring department

• 3-number code:
  - the 1\textsuperscript{st} number in the course code indicates level of difficulty (100-series versus 400-series).
  - the 2\textsuperscript{nd} and 3\textsuperscript{rd} numbers seldom indicate level of difficulty within that series. (Exception: MAT157Y, CHM151Y, PHY151H & 152H)

• Y1 and HI suffixes
  - credit value/weight (Y/H) plus campus (1/3/5)
  - 1 = St. George  3 = UTSC  5 = UTM

• hours

• types of instruction: L(ecture); T(utorial); P(ractical)

• prerequisites, co-requisites, and exclusions
  - comma (,) semi-colon (;) ampersand (&) and plus sign (+) all mean AND
  - the slash (/) means OR

• breadth requirement
BASICS: course load

A typical course load for Fall/Winter is 5.0 credits (or FCEs, which means “Full Course Equivalents”).

You can take fewer.

You can take as many as 6.0 in Fall/Winter (3.0 in the Fall Term and 3.0 in the Winter Term).

But it’s not advisable, especially in first year!

Try to balance out your courses so you’re taking the same number in First (or Fall) term and in Second (or Spring) term.
BASICS: more course basics

CONSIDERATIONS

• lots of options
• lots of flexibility
• new and traditional approaches to subjects
• course descriptions help explain differences between similar courses
• scheduling around your personal/work schedule
• navigating campus in the 10 minutes between classes
• review prerequisites, co-requisites and exclusions
• check enrolment indicators (more on this in a few minutes)
• 10 minutes between classes
• there’s always room for small classes and “electives”
Timetable will be updated on the web and ACORN with locations of classes in late August. See Campus Map.
BASICS: even more course basics

• collect as much information as possible from FAS webpages
  innis blogs (askastudent, fastforward, starterkit)
  innis YouTube
  other first-year students
  upper-year students
  professors
  course evaluations (on the UofT Portal & rate-my-prof)

• then make an informed decision (keeping in mind that you can make changes even into the beginning of classes)

• A course can be easy for some students and hard for others

• class averages are pretty much the same in all courses (C+/B-); however, the Seminar 199s and the 1st-Year Foundation courses have slightly higher class averages. For a very good reason. . . .
STRATEGIES: course selection

• start with courses you know you’re going to require for programs you’re interested in taking
• use a convenient scheduling tool
• balance your course load between both terms for difficulty and variety
• don’t necessarily give yourself Mondays or Friday’s off
• consider back-to-back classes and traversing the 35-city block campus
• can you handle morning classes? evening classes?
• a higher second- or third-digit number in the course code does not correspond to a harder courses (except . . .)
• room for small courses and electives (Seminar 199s or First-Year Foundations)
• “electives” – what do you like? what do you want to try out?
• enrolment controls
• reflect before signing up for second-year courses
• always check prerequisites/co-requisites/exclusions
STRATEGIES: big classes

There’s no doubt you’ll be taking some classes that are larger than what you’re familiar with. There’s 500 1st-year classes in A&S

7 have enrolments over 1200 students:
ANT100Y, AST101H, BIO120H, BIO130H, PHY131H, POL101Y, PSY100H (Convocation Hall)

2 have enrolments over 850:
SOC100H, SOC150H (Convocation Hall)

Another 20 courses have enrolments between 350 and 500. (OISE, Medical Sciences, Bader, Earth Science & Myhal Centre)

Usually taught by some of our best instructors, these large classes also include small group learning in tutorials and in laboratories.
STRATEGIES: small classes

The majority of courses in A&S have enrolments of fewer than 40 students.

And these three unique types of 1st-year classes are limited to 25 students each:
- First-Year Seminars (Seminar 199s)
- First-Year Foundations (the Ones Programs)
- VIC One Hundred Seminars (formerly Pathways)

All three explore topics through interactive learning. They’re a great way to develop your writing and presentation skills and to hone your intellectual independence. They’re for students from any academic background and, conveniently, they also satisfy breadth requirements.
STRATEGIES: synonyms and not so synonymous

These are the same:
- 100-series = 100-level = first-year courses
- A&S = FAS = Faculty of Arts & Science
- First-Year Foundation = the One programs
- First-Year Seminar = Seminar 199
- ACORN = SWS = Student Web Service (=ROSI)
- Subject POS = Program of Study
- LEC = L = lecture
- cancel = drop
- Fall/Winter Session = Fall Term plus Spring Term

These are not quite the same:
- breadth requirement vs distribution requirement
- credit vs course
- Faculty vs faculty
- cancel (or drop) vs Withdrawal
- LWD vs WDR
- Term vs Session
STRATEIGES: reading a timetable listing
STRATEGIES: enrolment indicators

Some examples:
P (see 100-series HIS courses)
E (see EAS101Y1Y)
AE (see PSL372H1F)
PE (see EAS121H1S)
R1 (see ECO101H1F & ECO102H1S)
R2 (see CCR199H1S L0091)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>July 2</th>
<th>Canada Day holiday; University closed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 3</td>
<td>results for Type 2 and Type 3 program requests available (first request period); first day to request Type 2 programs (second request period); first day to request Type 3 programs (second request period)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 4</td>
<td>first day for Year 4/5 students to check start time for course enrolment on ACORN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 9</td>
<td>first day for Year 3 students to check start time for course enrolment on ACORN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 11</td>
<td>course enrolment begins for Year 4/5 students at pre-assigned start time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 13</td>
<td>first day for Year 2 students to check start time for course enrolment on ACORN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 16</td>
<td>course enrolment begins for Year 3 students; 2018-19 Fall-Winter tuition posted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 19</td>
<td>course enrolment begins for Year 2 students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>July 20</strong></td>
<td><strong>first day for Year 1 students to check start time for course enrolment on ACORN</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 22</td>
<td>last day to request courses with AE enrolment control on ACORN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 23</td>
<td>enrolment at Department begins for courses with AE enrolment control</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 26</td>
<td>course enrolment begins for Year 1 students</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### STRATEGIES: start dates (cont’d)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Events</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 2</td>
<td>- no course enrolment on ACORN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 3</td>
<td>- priorities for courses with P enrolment control removed for Arts &amp; Science (St. George campus) degree students. General course enrolment will begin at the following times, according to year of study:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Year 4/Year 5: 9:00 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Year 3: 10:00 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Year 2: 11:00 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Year 1: 12:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 7</td>
<td>- no course enrolment on ACORN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 8</td>
<td>- last day to accept invitation and enrol in Type 2 and 3 programs (first request period)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- course enrolment begins for students in other St. George campus faculties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 9</td>
<td>- no course enrolment on ACORN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 10</td>
<td>- course enrolment begins for St. George non-degree students and UTM/UTSC students; all other St. George campus students continue course enrolment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- course enrolment begins for Arts &amp; Science students in UTM/UTSC courses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- enrolment begins at Departments for courses with PE enrolment control</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 29</td>
<td>- last day to request Type 2 and 3 programs (second request period)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Registration Deadline: last day to pay or defer fees. If you do not enrol in courses by this date, your registration will be cancelled. If you wish to enrol in courses after this date, you will be required to pay a late registration fee at your College Registrar's Office</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### STRATEGIES: start dates (cont’d)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Events</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 3</td>
<td>Labour Day; University closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 6</td>
<td>Start of the 2018-19 Fall/Winter session; classes begin in F and Y section code courses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 13</td>
<td>Results for Type 2 and Type 3 program requests available (second request period)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 14</td>
<td>Waiting lists for F and Y courses turned off at end of day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 19</td>
<td>Last day to add or make section changes to F and Y section code courses;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- The last day to accept invitation and enrol in Type 2 and 3 programs (second request period)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Last day to withdraw from commerce/computer science/bioinformatics &amp; computational biology programs for the 2018-19 fall/winter session if enrolled in at least one F/Y section code course to have current session fees adjusted;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
STRATEGIES: start times

You can find out your start time on ACORN.

Groups of 500 students enter the system every 20 minutes.

A possible scenario could look something like this:

9:00 a.m.     Humanities & Social Science & Architecture
12:00 noon    Commerce
1:30 p.m.     Computer Science
2:30 p.m.     Sciences
STRATEGIES: seminar 199 start times

Restrictions for 26 July only

Restrictions for First Year Seminar courses with college designation
Students planning to enrol in two 199H half-courses with the same section code (i.e. two F sections or two S sections) with the same designator (e.g. two CCR199H1F or two LTE199H1S) will not be able to register in both on ACORN. Students should contact deb.shaw.utoronto.ca immediately after enrolling into one course on ACORN to be enrolled into the second one.
STRATEGIES: start times for second round

Students can sign up for a 6th course on 3 August.

Course enrolment will be staggered by Year of Study.

4th-Year 9:00 a.m.
3rd-Year 10:00 a.m.
2nd-Year 11:00 a.m.
1st-Year 12:00 noon

Be advised, if you’re waiting to be accepted into an “E” enrolment course (that the department will enrol you in) be sure you have room for it in your credit total of 6.0 courses.
STRATEGIES: start times (cont’d)

a word about—
—waitlists
  • up to 2.0 FCE’s
  • LEC only
  • available until 14 September for P/R1/R2/blank courses

and a word about—
—the enrolment cart on ACORN
  • A planning tool
  • Enrolment is not automatic
  • Hit the enrol button for each course
  • Have a back-up plan
  • Modify function on ACORN (pencil icon)
STRATEGIES: 200-series courses

with “intro” in the title
STRATEGIES: arc and vis

Lots of courses are open to first-year students. See their timetable. (google: “daniels timetable 2018”)

Enrolment controls will be indicated in the calendar.

ARC, VIS & JAV. Many will open on 26 July.

The studio courses in ARC aren’t available to A&S students. Some of the VIS are. ARC180H is an interactive course on computation that is a BR5.
STRATEGIES: checking pre-requisites

Prerequisites and co-requisites and exclusions are not checked by ACORN in real time, but they will be checked. You could be removed from a course at any time.

Special circumstances? Speak to sponsoring department.
STRATEGIES: time conflicts

ACORN does not prohibit enrolment in courses that overlap in time.
REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS AND THE A&S TIMETABLE

2018-2019
You will be informed by email should you be advanced from a waitlist into a course. In the summer, A&S will use the non-UTmail+ email they have for you, but once school starts, the FAS will only send messages to your UTmail+ email.
STEPS TO REGISTER: enrolling in courses

Plan your schedule well before 26 July 2018.

Have several options for the courses you want, including different lecture times for each, if possible.

When planning, schedule your lectures first, then labs and tutorials.

On 26 July, you can enrol in up to 5.0 credits. On 3 August, you can add up to 1.0 additional credits.

Start enrolling in courses on 26 July at your start time.

It’s reasonable to join a waitlist for a course if your waitlist number is within 10% of the total class size. (2.0 FCE waitlist max)

Enrol in both Fall and Winter term courses!
STEPS TO REGISTER: enrolling in courses

don’t enrol in the same course in both terms.
STEPS TO REGISTER: enrolling in courses

ACORN is pretty intuitive. There are also instructional videos on YouTube, like this one: http://help.acorn.utoronto.ca/

You can keep the courses and the sections of courses you’d like to take (including back-up course choices in the event your desired courses are full) in the Enrolment Cart on ACORN.

NOTE:
The courses in your cart will not be added automatically when your course enrolment period begins.
STEPS TO REGISTER: enrolling onto a waitlist courses

If a course is full, you can often put yourself on the waitlist for the course.

2.0 FCEs is the waitlist max
Not all courses have waiting lists
Wait lists are only available for lecture sections
Wait lists eventually close!

you can’t put yourself on a waitlist for a different section of a course you already have. but you can try to “change” and if it doesn’t work, you will not lose your section.
STEPS TO REGISTER: paying fees

Your fees invoice is on ACORN
Your fees will be posted in mid-July 2018
All students are charged the program fee
Full-time = 4.0+ courses = program fee
All students taking 4.0 – 6.0 credits pay the same program fee.
ACORN assumes all students are taking 4.0+ courses
Request course fee assessment (3.5 or fewer) on Online Services for A&S Students. But note that you will be restricted from adding courses, including waitlist courses, beyond 3.5.
Tuition ~$6,780 (domestic) ~$50,000 (int’l)
Incidental Fees ~$1,600
STEPS TO REGISTER:
what is registration?

Course enrolment
+
paying at least 100% of Fall Tuition or officially deferring by 29 August 2018
=
registration

If you miss the 29 August 2018 date, you risk being removed from your courses. And once removed, there’s no guarantee that space will be available later. And a late registration fee (!) is applied.
IMPORTANT DATES

• 20 July – check your start time for enrolling in courses via ACORN
• 26 July – Enrol in courses at your start time through ACORN
• 3 August – Priorities for P indicator courses removed
• 29 August – pay first instalment of fees or officially defer fees (if getting OSAP/other student loan/scholarship that cover tuition)
• 3-5 September – Frosh Week
• 6 September – classes begin
• 14 September – waitlists turned off
• 19 September – last day to add or change sections of F/Y courses.
TIPS: if only i had known—

- about student blogs like askastudent
- that librarians offer useful one-to-one help as well as online help
- that there are web tools available through the library to help with referencing (and avoiding accidental plagiarizing)
- that the libraries and ASSU have copies of past tests
- that professors actually appreciate your visiting them during office hours with course-related questions
- that there are actually techniques for writing multiple-choice exams
- that there are employment opportunities all over campus
- that there are experiential learning opportunities all over the FAS
- that there are emergency bursaries if I’m in a financial bind
- that learning from mistakes is not always a bad thing
- about fastforward and starterkit
TIPS: poll

Type: pollev
TIPS: for talking to professors

• What can I do to prepare for your first-year course over the summer?

• Is the Specialist that much better than the Major? Does it have different first year requirements?

• I heard about experiential learning and I’m interested. Does your department offer any?

• What would you suggest as the best habit to develop in order to do well in your course?

• What mistake (if any) did you make in first year?

• Is there anything I should avoid doing?