

## Tips for Students Registering in 1<sup>st</sup> Year Arts & Humanities

1. **Getting Started:** For general information on your degree, please read the information on our website: [https://www.uwo.ca/arts/counselling/your\\_degree/index.html](https://www.uwo.ca/arts/counselling/your_degree/index.html). The Academic Calendar is the best resource for looking up different programs and prerequisites: <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/>. If you click on the “Faculties” link, you can then find each Faculty and all of the various programs and subject areas.
2. **Five Different Subjects:** You would typically take 5.0 courses with no more than 1.0 from a given subject. For example, if you are aiming for English, you would only need to take 1.0 of the 1<sup>st</sup> Year courses: either English 1020E, English 1022E, or both English 1027F and 1028G.
3. **Breadth Requirements:** In 1<sup>st</sup> Year, you need to complete 1.0 course from two of the three breadth requirements (Category A, B and C). Please see the information on our webpage about this: [https://www.uwo.ca/arts/counselling/your\\_degree/breadth\\_requirements.html](https://www.uwo.ca/arts/counselling/your_degree/breadth_requirements.html).

We would typically recommend completing the Category C (Science) requirement in 1<sup>st</sup> Year, so as to get it out of the way. However, if you do not feel confident to take a Science in Year 1, you may choose to defer this to a senior year. Please note that Scholar’s Electives students and AEO students may not take 1<sup>st</sup> Year courses in their senior years, so if these students choose to defer the Science, it would then need to be a senior Science course if taken in 2<sup>nd</sup> Year.

4. **Language requirements:** If you wish to pursue the **Honors Specialization in Classical Studies** or **Major in Arts & Humanities (SASAH)**, it is a good idea to begin your language requirement(s) for these modules in 1st year, especially if you are beginning the language. Please note that a second language is “strongly encouraged” for the **Honors Specialization in Art History & Museum Studies**, and Latin 1000 and Latin 2000 are “strongly encouraged” for the **Major in Medieval Studies**.
5. **Language Placement Tests:** The majority of students do not need to take the French Placement test. If you completed Grade 11 French (Core, Extended or Immersion) with a minimum grade of 75% in the last 3 years, you would register in **French 1010**. If you completed Grade 12 French (Core, Extended or Immersion) with a minimum grade of 75% in the last 3 years, you would register French 1910, 1900E, or 1999. If you are beginning French at Western or if you do not fit into the above two categories (for example, you are at a higher level), you should take the French Placement test on the French website: <https://www.uwo.ca/french/undergraduate/placement.html>. If you have questions about your score on the placement test, please contact the Program Assistant for French Studies frenchadvising@uwo.ca. The procedure is similar for languages taught by the Department of Modern Languages & Literatures—please see the information on their website: [http://www.uwo.ca/modlang/undergraduate/placement\\_test.html](http://www.uwo.ca/modlang/undergraduate/placement_test.html)
6. **Senior Language courses in 1st year:** If you are eligible to take a senior language course due to proficiency, you may count it towards your 5.0 1<sup>st</sup> Year requirements and towards the module requirements, if applicable. However, it counts only once towards the total number of credits for the degree. Also, if you were to take 2.0 senior courses in a given language in 1<sup>st</sup> Year, only 1.0 course may count in lieu of a 1<sup>st</sup> Year credit.
7. **English prerequisites:** You should take your 1<sup>st</sup> Year English course prerequisite **on main campus**: English 1020E, English 1022E, 1120E, or both English 1027F/G and 1028F/G. If you have at least **85% in Grade 12U English, you are encouraged to take English 1022E**. Please note that English 1010F/G may **not** be used as a prerequisite for the English modules; it is designed as an elective.

[You can find all English and Writing Studies Courses for 2025/26 here](#)

8. **Philosophy courses in 1<sup>st</sup> Year:** Although philosophy modules do not require a 1<sup>st</sup> Year prerequisite, it is recommended that interested students take either **Philosophy 1020** (non-essay, no previous knowledge of Philosophy required) or 1.0 of the various other Main Campus Philosophy half courses.

[You can find all Philosophy Courses here](#)

- 9. Visual Art History courses in 1st year:** 1.0 from either Art History 1640 or two of Art History 1641A/B, Art History 1642A/B, Art History 1644A/B, AH 1646A/B or AH 1648A/B are the Art History prerequisites for Visual Arts modules

[You can find all Visual Arts Courses for 2025/26 here](#)

- 10. Studio Art Courses in 1<sup>st</sup> Year:** If you are aiming for one of the Visual Arts modules, you would take **Studio Art 1601** in 1<sup>st</sup> Year (as well as the Art History courses listed above). If your portfolio was accepted for entry into the BFA (Bachelor of Fine Arts) program for 1<sup>st</sup> Year, you would be automatically registered in **Studio Art 1605**.
- 11. Essay course load:** Given our disciplines, many students in Arts & Humanities will take 3.0 or more essay courses in 1<sup>st</sup> Year. This is absolutely fine if you are comfortable with essay writing, as many of our students are. **Classical Studies 1000, Film 1022 or Philosophy 1020** are common 1<sup>st</sup> Year non-essay complementary courses.
- 12. Linguistics and Women's Studies courses:** These may count as either Category A or Category B courses. The half-courses, **Women's Studies 1021F/G, 1022F/G, 1023F/G and 1024F/G** can be used in lieu of **Women's Studies 1020E** as a prerequisite for Women's Studies modules, the Major in Sexuality Studies and the Minor in Sexuality Studies.

[You can find a list of all Programs in Arts and Humanities here](#)