

Science and Basic Medical Sciences: First-Year Course Registration Guide 2026-27

First-year course registration opens on June 22 and is available all summer until September 17.

Key Points

First-year students should make sure their timetable includes the following:

- A total of 5.0 credits from courses numbered 1000-1999, which can be a mix of 0.5 credit (half-year) and 1.0 credit (full-year) courses.
- At least 1.0 credit must come from courses outside the Faculty of Science
 - Refer to the Breadth & Essay Requirements section below for more information
- A minimum of four different subjects, with no more than 2.0 credits in one subject
- Courses balanced across both terms (5 courses per term)
- [Admission requirements](#) for your program of choice
- Optional: include an essay credit (courses ending in E, F or G)

Course Numbering

0001 - 0999	Pre-University level introductory courses (may not be counted for credit with the exception of Math 0110A/B)
1000 - 1999	Year 1 courses
2000 - 4999	Senior-level courses

Course Suffixes

Western uses suffixes (the letters on the end of course numbers) to designate different types of courses. Please pay close attention to suffixes when enrolling in courses.

No Suffix	1.0 course not designated as an essay course that runs from September to April
A	0.5 course offered in first term
B	0.5 course offered in second term
E	1.0 Essay course that runs from September to April
F	0.5 Essay course offered in first term
G	0.5 Essay course offered in second term
Y	0.5 course that runs from September to April

IMPORTANT: Do not select both the A and B (or F and G) sections of a course with the same course number. For example, do not select both Calculus 1000A and Calculus 1000B, as these are different sections of the same course offered in the fall (A) and the winter (B).

Course Enrollment

- Set up your [Multi-Factor Authentication](#). This is required to access course registration
- Begin by creating a conflict-free timetable for both the fall and winter terms in [Draft My Schedule](#)
- Review our [First Year page](#) for an overview of recommended courses by program
- Make sure you have at least 1.0 credits from outside the Faculty of Science. This can include 1.0 Social Science or Arts & Humanities credits, or 0.5 of each
- Select electives based on your interests and strengths. Read course descriptions in the [Academic Calendar](#) and review course outlines on departmental websites (for example, [Social Science](#); [Arts & Humanities](#))
- You can select up to 1.0 credits at the Affiliates, provided the same course isn't offered on Western's Main Campus
 - Western's Affiliated University Colleges, Huron and King's, are smaller campuses within the larger Western community
 - You will know a course is offered by an Affiliate because the section number will typically follow this pattern: 550 (Huron) or 570 (King's)

- Enroll in your courses using [Student Center](#) (Need help? [How to add/drop/swap courses](#))
- While we encourage you to finalize your fall and winter timetables during the summer registration period, you can continue to make changes to your fall timetable until September 17, and until January 12 for winter-term half courses
- [Information on Advanced Standing credits](#) from IB or AP courses
- **NOTE:** Adding courses to your enrollment cart does not complete the enrollment process. Make sure you go to your enrollment cart and submit your selections to finalize enrollment

Important Terminology

Prerequisite	A course that must be successfully completed prior to registration for credit in the desired course.
Antirequisite	Courses that overlap sufficiently in course content that both cannot be taken for credit.
Corequisite	A course that must be taken concurrently with (or prior to registration in) the desired course.
Constraint	A requirement that must be met to enroll in a course. These are noted in the "Requisites and Constraints" column in Draft My Schedule.

Breadth and Essay Requirements

Breadth Requirements:

As part of Western's graduation requirements, all students are required to complete 1.0 credits in each of the following three categories:

- Category A - Social Science/Interdisciplinary & Multidisciplinary/Various
- Category B - Arts & Humanities/Languages
- Category C - Science

While not all three categories need to be completed in first year, students in Science and Basic Medical Sciences are required to take 1.0 non-Science credits in their first year. This can be 1.0 Category A, 1.0 Category B, or 0.5 of each, and these must be at the 1000-1999 level. You can see which category each subject area falls into in the [Academic Calendar](#).

Essay Requirements:

To meet graduation requirements, all Western students must complete 2.0 [essay courses](#). Essay courses are classes that require students to demonstrate competence in written assignments. At least 1.0 of the 2.0 required essay courses must be taken at the 2000+ level. First-year students may wish to consider taking 0.5 or 1.0 essay credits at the 1000-level to work toward completing this degree requirement, but essay credits in first year are optional. You can tell which courses are essay credits, as they end in the suffixes E (1.0 credit essay course), F (0.5 credit fall-term essay course), G (0.5 credit winter-term essay course) and Z (0.5 essay course offered in other than a regular session).

Need Help?

Western Launch Advising:

[Western Launch](#) is a free program to assist incoming undergraduate students with their course selection, help answer questions about programs and services on campus, and support you in feeling confident to thrive at Western.

Check out their resources and support services:

- [Virtual one-on-one and group advising support](#)
- [Faculty-specific workshops](#) on course selection

Science and Basic Medical Sciences Academic Advising Office:

Our office supports Science and Medical Sciences undergraduate students as they navigate academic choices. We encourage incoming first-year students to connect with us to ask questions about first-year course selection.

Ways to connect:

- Ask questions via our [Help Portal](#)
- [Booked Appointments, Drop-In Appointments and Daily Zoom Same-Day Appointments](#)
- [Live Chat](#) (during peak times)
- [Welcome Wednesdays](#)
- Access [tips](#) and [FAQs](#) specifically for first-year Science/Medical Science students
- [Med Sci Year 1 FAQ's](#)

Common Errors to Avoid

These are the most common errors that can happen. You will want to make certain to rectify these problems immediately.

- Enrolling in the same course twice (e.g. Calculus 1000A and Calculus 1000B are the same course. Calculus 1000B is not a continuation of Calculus 1000A, rather, it is the same course offered in the fall (A) and winter (B) terms)
- Taking more than 1.0 course per year at an Affiliated College (Huron or King's)
- Taking senior courses (numbered 2000 or above) in first year
- Taking too many courses in one subject (no more than 2.0 credits in the same subject in first year)
- Missing the Category A (Social Science) and/or Category B (Arts & Humanities) requirements
- Missing prerequisites for courses you are adding
- Taking two courses that are antirequisites
 - An antirequisite is a course that contains the same or similar content as another course. If both are taken, only the most recent course credit will be retained for credit. The first course will be noted as RNC meaning repeated, no credit.
 - For example, if Math 1600A/B is completed successfully, and in the next term, a student then completes Math 1229A/B, they will lose credit for Math 1600A/B.
 - Students are strongly advised to review pre- and antirequisites VERY carefully!
- Overloading (max 2.5 course credits per term)
- Forgetting to drop second term courses if you did not complete the prerequisite(s) in first term

Important Resources

- [Western's Academic Calendar](#)
- [Draft My Schedule](#)
- [Fall/Winter Timetable](#)
- [Student Center](#)
- [Western Launch](#)
- [Science & Basic Medical Sciences Academic Advising](#)
- [Western Chat](#) (for technical issues with course registration)
- [Student Finances](#)
- [How-to guides on adding/dropping/swapping courses](#)
- [Activating your Western Identity](#)
- [How Do I...? Guide to Student Center](#)