

## Course Numbering, Essay Courses, and Hours of Instruction

<b>Subject:</b>	Course Numbering, Essay Courses, and Hours of Instruction
<b>Sections:</b>	<a href="#">Course Numbering for Undergraduate Courses</a> ; <a href="#">Modes of Course Delivery</a> ; <a href="#">Essay Courses (Undergraduate Degrees)</a> ; <a href="#">Hours of Instruction for Undergraduate Courses</a> ; <a href="#">First Year Courses/Classes</a> ; <a href="#">Graduate Course Offerings</a>
<b>Approving Authority:</b>	Senate
<b>Responsible Committee:</b>	Senate Committee on Academic Policy
<b>Related Procedures:</b>	*
<b>Officer(s) Responsible for Procedure:</b>	*
<b>Related Policies:</b>	*
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## COURSE NUMBERING FOR UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

### Course Numbering

1. **Course Numbers:** Courses are labelled with a ten-character field where the first four characters are numeric and the last six characters may be used for an alphabetic suffix.

**Course Titles:** If the title exceeds 30 characters the course must be given an alternate “short title” of 30 characters or less for use by the Office of the Registrar.

**Course Descriptions:** May not exceed 50 words.

2. Each course will be identified by the department/program offering it. If the

## Course Numbering, Essay Courses, and Hours of Instruction

course is to be cross-listed and offered by more than one department/program, this should be stated clearly in the original proposal for the course.

3. Courses will be numbered according to the following format:

0001 - 0999\* Pre-University level introductory courses  
1000 - 1999 Year 1 courses  
2000 - 4999 Senior-level undergraduate courses  
5000 - 5999 Professional Degree courses in Dentistry, Education, Law, and Medicine  
6000 - 6999 Courses offered by Western Continuing Studies  
7000 - 8999 *Not yet designated*  
9000 - 9999 Graduate Studies courses

\* These courses are equivalent to pre-university introductory courses and may be counted for credit in the student's record, unless these courses were taken in a preliminary year. They may not be counted toward essay or breadth requirements, or used to meet modular admission requirements unless it is explicitly stated in the Senate-approved module/program.

### Undergraduate Course Suffixes

1. All suffixes are in upper case and indicate the following with regard to course weight and session. The suffixes I and O will not be used to avoid confusion with numbers.
2. Suffixes will be added according to the following format:

No suffix	1.0 full-year course not designated as an essay course
A	0.5 course offered in first term
B	0.5 course offered in second term
A/B	0.5 course offered in first and/or second term
C	January courses in the Faculty of Law (4.0 credit weight)
D	February/March/April (FMA) courses in the Faculty of Law
E	1.0 full-year essay course
F	0.5 essay course offered in first term
G	0.5 essay course offered in second term
F/G	0.5 essay course offered in first and/or second term
H	Unassigned
J	Unassigned
K	0.75 course (integrated curriculum of HBA1 program) at the Ivey Business School
L	Unassigned
M	Unassigned
N	Unassigned
P	Unassigned

## Course Numbering, Essay Courses, and Hours of Instruction

Q	0.25 course offered in the first half of first term
R	0.25 course offered in the second half of first term
S	0.25 course offered in the first half of second term
T	0.25 course offered in the second half of second term
U	0.25 course offered in other than a regular session
V	Unassigned
W	1.0 (or more) accelerated course offered in first term
X	1.0 (or more) accelerated course offered in second term
Y	0.5 course offered in other than a regular session
Z	0.5 essay course offered in other than a regular session

### Undergraduate Course Offerings

#### 1. Course Designations

In most cases:

- a) A full course (1.0 course) will have no suffix or will have an E suffix.
- b) A half course (0.5 course) will have an A, B, F, G, Y or Z suffix. Two 0.5 courses are the equivalent of one 1.0 course, whether or not they have been taken in the same subject.
- c) A quarter course (0.25 course) will have a Q, R, S, T or U suffix to indicate the term.

Other designations have also been approved, as follows:

- d) C and D courses are offered by the Faculty of Law
- e) K courses are offered by the Ivey Business School
- f) W and X courses are 1.0 (or more) accelerated courses (often language courses) which are offered in one term only. They may not be designated as essay courses and normally will not be scheduled during high demand hours, i.e., Monday to Friday from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

#### 3. Course Inactivation

- a) If a course is not offered for a period of five years, following consultation with the relevant Faculty, School or Affiliated University College, the Office of the Registrar will inform the Subcommittee on Undergraduate Academic Courses (SOC) that the course will be withdrawn from course offerings and removed from the Academic Calendar and master timetable.
- b) If a Special Topics course has been offered two times with the same topic, the Faculty, School or Affiliated University College, should they wish to offer the course again, must propose the course to SOC for its

## Course Numbering, Essay Courses, and Hours of Instruction

approval as a regular course offering and include the former course as an antirequisite for the years it was offered as a Special Topics offering, e.g., “Economics 4490F/G, if taken in 2023-24 or 2024-25.”

### **MODES OF COURSE DELIVERY**

Courses are offered in the following modes of delivery: face-to-face, blended, and fully online.

Any proposed change to the mode of delivery as indicated in the timetable requires the approval of the Dean or designate of the Faculty in which the course is offered.

#### **Face-to-Face Courses**

Instruction is delivered in person where students and instructors are in the same physical location and at times designated in the timetable. Course delivery may include use of learning technologies to enhance learning and teaching, e.g., posting course materials, learning activities, discussion groups, virtual guest lectures, etc.

#### **Blended Courses**

Blended courses have both face-to-face and online instruction, as well as on-campus exams. These course offerings are clearly identified by designated section numbers in the undergraduate Academic Calendar and lecture timetable. In the identified blended courses, at least 30% of instructional hours will occur online and at least 30% of instructional hours will occur face-to-face. For example, in a half (0.5) course at the undergraduate level, at least eight of the required 24 instructional hours will occur online and at least eight of the required 24 instructional hours will occur face-to-face.

### Fully Online Courses

Instruction and learning happen entirely online using learning technologies. Fully online courses may include synchronous components (e.g., live online lectures and discussions) and/or asynchronous components (e.g., recorded lectures, discussion boards, online activities, etc.). Synchronous components occur within times designated in the timetable. Assessments are online unless designated as in person at the point that students register for the course.

### ESSAY COURSES (Undergraduate Degrees)

Students are encouraged to take an essay course in first year.

Only Western courses designated as essay courses may be used to fulfil this requirement.

Departments must identify essay courses, and the courses will be designated as such in the Academic Calendar. However, courses which are not identified as essay courses may require a significant component of course work in the form of essay writing.

The guidelines for the minimum written assignments refer to the cumulative amount of written work in a course.

An essay course must normally involve total written assignments (i.e., essays or other appropriate prose composition) as follows:

Full course (1000 to 1999):	at least 3000 words
Half course (1000 to 1999):	at least 1500 words
Full course (2000 and above):	at least 5000 words
Half course (2000 and above):	at least 2500 words

The structure of the essay course must be such that in order to pass the course, the student must exhibit competence in essay writing and the appropriate level of knowledge of the content of the course.

The term "essay" is to be understood broadly to include many of the reports, reviews, summaries, critiques, and some laboratory reports that are currently assigned, as well as essays in the strictest sense. The essential point is that the assignments involve assembling information and argument and presenting it in connected prose.

Depending on the course, the language of the essay may be English, French, or any of the foreign languages, but artificial and/or machine languages do not meet this requirement.

## Course Numbering, Essay Courses, and Hours of Instruction

Course-wide uniformity of designation is a practical necessity. Where a multi-sectioned course is identified as an essay course, all sections of that course must include the appropriate essay component.

The alternative of separate courses with different course numbers, differing only in the essay course component (or lack of it), remains. This is consistent with existing regulations but requires "new course" approval through the Dean's Office by means of SOC.

### HOURS OF INSTRUCTION FOR UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

Instructional hours for courses offered in a conventional face-to-face format and blended format include the number of hours per week for seminar, lecture, required laboratory sessions, and required tutorial sessions. Instructional hours are not normally listed for online-only courses unless students are required to participate in regularly scheduled online sessions at specific times.

The following course prescriptions are established:

- A full (1.0) course at the undergraduate level shall require a minimum of 48 instructional hours.
- A half (0.5) course at the undergraduate level shall require a minimum of 24 instructional hours.
- A quarter (0.25) course at the undergraduate level shall require a minimum of 12 instructional hours.

### FIRST YEAR COURSES/CLASSES

1. In each department, lecturing in first year courses should, in general, be done by members of faculty.
2. Departments will single out the teachers best qualified for first year teaching for assignment to first year classes.
3. Departments will make every effort to ensure that first year classes taught by more than one person have cohesion and continuity.
4. A common curriculum will be established in each course (1000-1999) with multiple sections.
5. Each department periodically will reappraise its first year course offerings to ensure that they adequately accommodate changes in Secondary School curricula, changes in the discipline, and the diverse levels of preparation attained by incoming students.

## GRADUATE COURSE OFFERINGS

1. Graduate course entries in the course catalogue do not normally include instructional hours.
2. Graduate courses do not use course suffixes to identify course features.
3. Cross-listed graduate courses
  - a. A course should normally only be cross-listed if expectations for completing the course are different (e.g., additional assignments, increased required reading etc.), or are assessed differently (e.g., assignment expectations are greater for one group than another) for two, or more, groups of students based on: degree level (e.g., doctoral vs. masters); academic career level (undergraduate vs. graduate); or, program (e.g., computer science vs. electrical computer engineering).

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**Last Reviewed:** February 13, 2026