

M C M A S T E R

SOCIAL SCIENCES SOCIETY



SURVIVAL GUIDE
ACADEMIC

2022/2023



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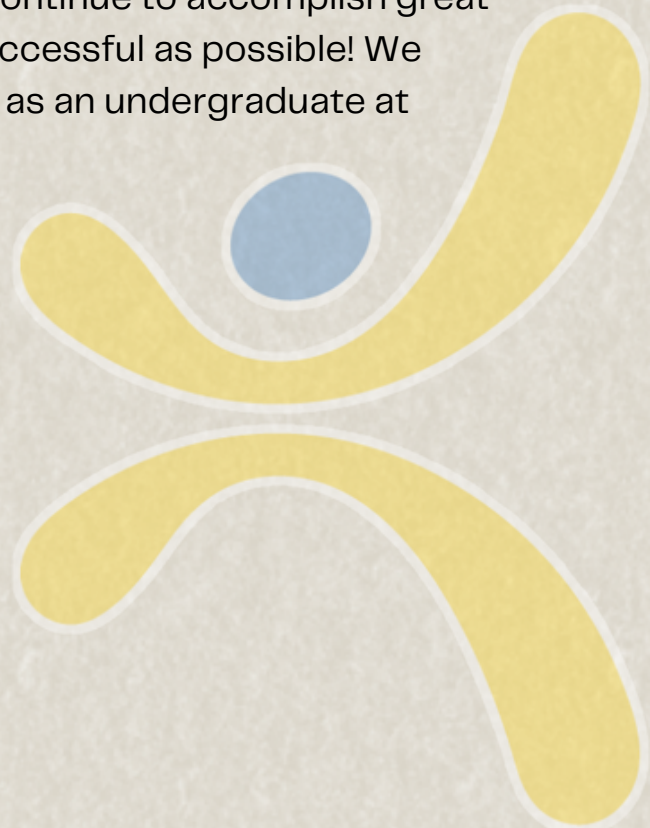
ACADEMIC RESOURCES

A LETTER FROM THE SOCIETY

WELCOME TO THE SOCIAL SCIENCES!

Hello! We would like to take this time to recognize that although we are not all currently congregated at McMaster, the University currently sits on the traditional Territories of the Mississauga and Haudenosaunee Nations, and within the lands protected by the “Dish With One Spoon” wampum agreement. We urge you to research the land that you currently reside on and be mindful of the history of the land.

The MSSS has crafted this survival guide to help you navigate your postsecondary career at Mac! We hope to provide you with a “one-stop shop” of all the information you’ll need to get through your years at Mac as an undergraduate SocSci student. We acknowledge that being an undergraduate student is stressful so we are sincerely hoping this guide will make things a tad bit easier on you as you continue to accomplish great things. We made this guide to help you be as successful as possible! We wish you the best as you continue your journey as an undergraduate at Mac!



WHAT IS THE MCMMASTER SOCIAL SCIENCES SOCIETY (MSSS)?



OUR HISTORY

The McMaster Social Sciences Society was established by a group of committed and responsible individuals in 1986 with the main goal of improving the experience of undergraduate Social Sciences students at McMaster University. This objective has been accomplished throughout the years by different means, ranging from social and academic events to recreational and cultural activities.

TODAY

Since 1988, the MSSS has continued to grow and expand its original vision creating the opportunity for Social Sciences students the participate in various social academic events while striving to foster an environment that promotes our guiding principles of unity, acceptance and collaboration.

CORE EXECUTIVES



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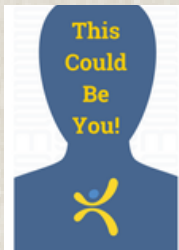
PERIPHERAL TEAM



Rebecca Cecim

Internal Assistant

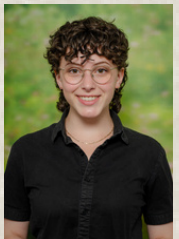
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This Could Be You!

Media & Design Coordinator

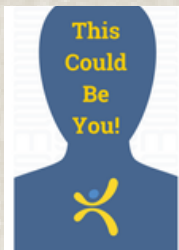
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This Could Be You!

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in Sociology

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PERIPHERAL TEAM



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Community Engagement



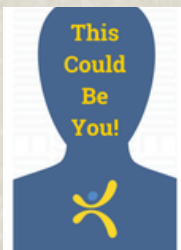
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This Could Be You!
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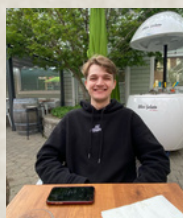


This Could Be You!
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First Year Representative

THIS COULD BE YOU :)

WHERE TO FIND THE MSSS



/mcmastersocialsciencessociety



society@themsss.com

<http://themsss.com>



LR WILSON ROOM 1001

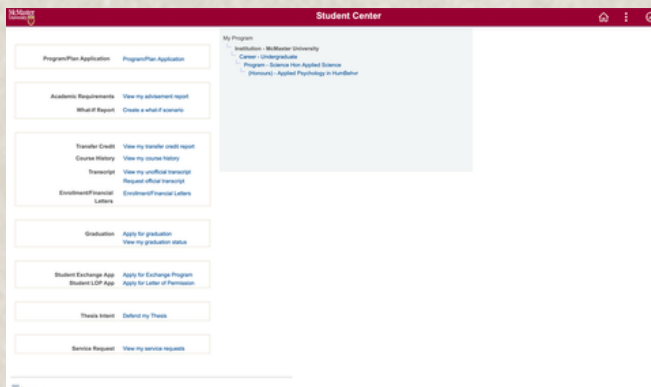


@macsocsci

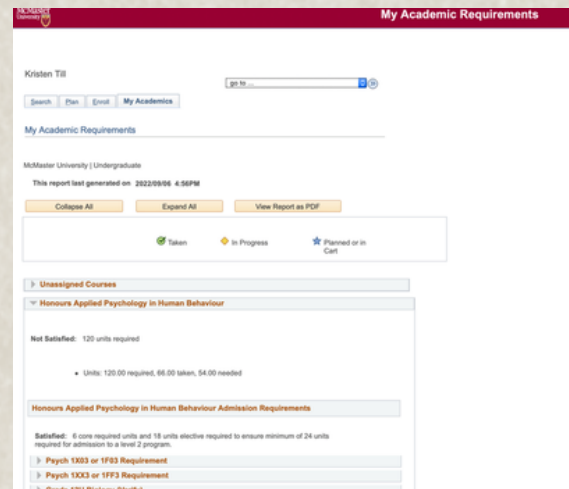
HOW TO

the academic essentials

how to find your academic report



This will also show you what courses you have to take for your major



how to apply for a minor

Students enrolled in a four- or five-level program (with the exception of the Medical Radiation Sciences programs) are eligible to obtain a Minor in another subject area, provided that the subject area is not integral to the requirements of their degree program. At least 18 units must be completed at McMaster. Students who wish to receive a Minor must consult the appropriate department section of the calendar. McMaster also offers Interdisciplinary Minors and Thematic Areas.

To apply for a Minor, students must complete the Minor/Certificate Application in addition to their online Graduation Information Centre (GIC) application. The student's Faculty will verify that the requirements have been met and, if successful, the transcript will indicate that a Minor has been obtained. Minors cannot be revoked once approved.

For more information visit: <https://academiccalendars.romcmaster.ca/content.php?catoid=41&navoid=8622#minors>

how to earn a certificate

MOHAWK certificates can be paired with any Social Sciences degree. The certificates offered are:

Business Studies

Leadership & Management in the Not-for-Profit Sector

Disability Management

All required certificate courses are taught on the McMaster campus so there is no need to travel. Use your elective credits to complete certificate requirements so you are NOT extending your time to complete your degree or certificate and NOT incurring additional course fees

For more information visit <https://socialsciences.mcmaster.ca/future/mohawk>

how to contact your academic advisor

Academic advising has moved online until further notice. If you would like to contact an academic advisor with questions, or book an appointment, please click [here](#). Use your McMaster email for all communications. After you submit your request through the Social Sciences Student Services Portal the advising team will do their best to connect with you within 48 hours.

Come prepared for all advising conversations. Write your questions ahead of time, doing preliminary research on your program requirements, and review your Advisement Report from Mosaic.

Office Hours Monday–Friday, 9AM–12PM and 1PM–4PM

Phone (905) 525-9140, ext. 23372

Email socscfac@mcmaster.ca

how to study on campus

Visit any of the following locations after checking in through MacCheck . Health Sciences Library and Innis Library are presently closed.

MILLS LIBRARY

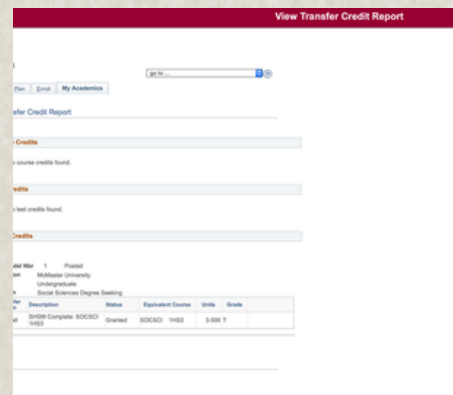
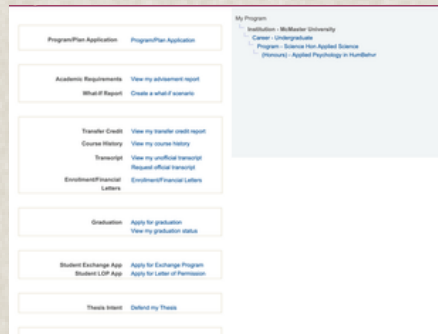
MON - FRI
8:30AM - 7:00PM

THODE LIBRARY

MON - FRI
8:30AM - 7:00PM

how to transfer to McMaster

Use mosaic to check your transfer credits



how to graduate

After you complete all your required courses and your final grades have been posted in Mosaic, please apply to graduate using the steps:

LOG INTO MOSAIC



SELECT
STUDENT
CENTER



VERIFY YOUR
NAME
&
ADDRESS



USE THE DROP-DOWN
MENU IN THE ACADEMIC
SECTION (DEFAULTED TO
"OTHER ACADEMIC") TO
SELECT "APPLY FOR
GRADUATION" AND FOLLOW
THE STEPS DETAILED

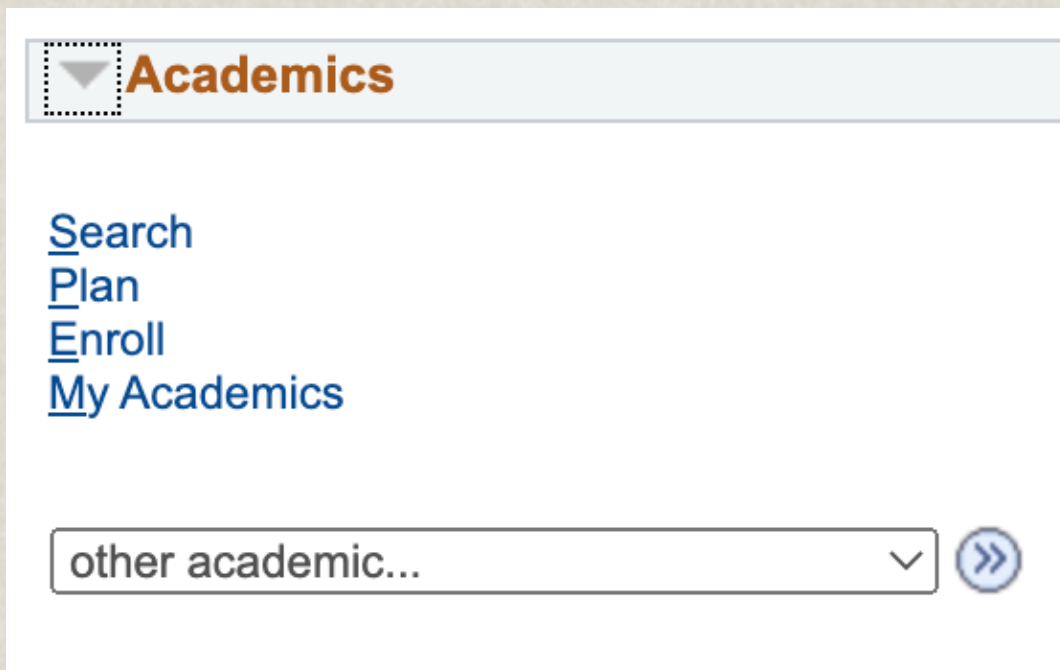
The “Expected Graduation Term” is the term in which you began your last course. When applying to graduate it takes 6-8 weeks to be approved. Once approved it takes an additional 6-8 weeks to receive your certificate, diploma or Certificate of Professional Learning in the mail. Certificate of Completion will be emailed shortly after the approval process.

Link for more information: <https://mcmastercce.ca/apply-to-graduate>

how to find your transfer credits

If you are a transfer student, you can use Mosaic to check your transfer credits!

LOG INTO MOSAIC



The screenshot shows the Mosaic Academics menu. At the top, there is a header bar with a dropdown arrow and the word "Academics". Below this, there is a list of links: "Search", "Plan", "Enroll", and "My Academics". At the bottom, there is a search bar with the text "other academic..." and a dropdown arrow, followed by a blue circular button with two white arrows pointing right.

Transfer Credit: Report

CAREER & EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION (EE)



GAIN THE EXPERIENCE TO GET THE JOB YOU WANT

In the Faculty of Social Sciences, the Careers & EE staff team can help you combine your academics with hands-on experience in the workplace, the community and the classroom, to ensure you get the most out of your Social Sciences education.

Not sure which career options you can pursue with your degree? Already have a career in mind but aren't sure how to get there? Need help with your resume or cover letter? Interested in paid internships? You can meet with Careers & EE staff to help with all of this and more.

Starting in Level II you can take the SOCSCI 2ELO career planning course – it's a pre-requisite to participate in paid Social Sciences internships or just a great way to pull together all of your academic, work and extra-curricular experience to ensure you're ready to apply for summer jobs or that first job after graduation. We also coordinate community-engaged placements and projects in academic courses, funding to attend conferences and volunteer abroad, and more!

We're located in the Associate Dean's office with the Academic Advising team. If you'd like to speak with us, just request a meeting through the Appointments tab on our website.

For more information about Careers & EE visit our website, follow us on social media or email us with specific questions.



exp.ed@mcmaster.ca

experiential-ed.mcmaster.ca



[@McMasterEE](https://twitter.com/McMasterEE)



[/McMasterEE](https://facebook.com/McMasterEE)

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICES (ISS)

International students are a valued part of the McMaster community. International Student Services (ISS) is a division of the **Student Success Centre** that provides services and programs for international undergraduate, graduate, visiting and exchange students at McMaster. As an international student, you have access to immigration advising, health insurance (UHIP) and one-on-one success coaching to help you adjust to life at McMaster and access valuable campus services. We also offer workshops, social programming and events to connect with other international students and support your transition to living in Canada.

REQUIREMENTS

Full time status as a student in the Faculty of Social Sciences is the same for both domestic and international students.

If your course load is below 60% for your program, you are **part-time**. If your course load is above 60%, you are **full time**. This translates to 3 courses, or 9 units, per semester. Students enrolled in 3 courses, or 9 units, per semester are full time.

International students should note that it is typically not advised to take only 3 courses as if for an unforeseen reason they should drop a course, they automatically become part-time students. This has the potential to affect their eligibility to work and in the future affect their eligibility for the Post-Graduation Work Permit Program (PGWP).

SOCIAL SCIENCE PERKS

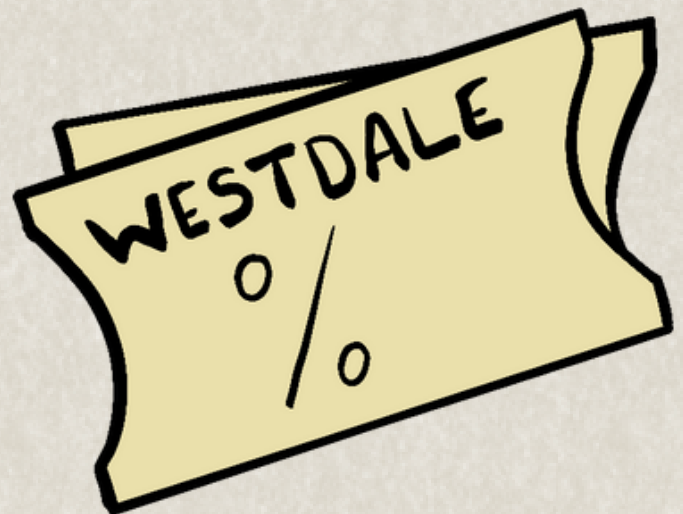
SOCIAL CARD

The social card is a discount card offered to all Social Science students to get deals within the Hamilton community! Keep your eye out for these social cards on our media pages or email vpexternal@themsss.com with any questions.



Thank you to our sponsors!

- The Westdale (Theatre)
- Grain and Grit Beer
- Royal Ontario Museum
- Westdale Cupcakes
- Allure Fitness
- Boston Pizza
- Dundas Yoga
- Erra Fashion Co.
- Cause and Effect Bar
- Chocolate Tales



ACADEMIC FUNDAMENTALS

GRADING SCHEME

A+	12	90-100%
A	11	85-89%
A-	10	80-84%
B+	9	77-79%
B	8	73-76%
B-	7	70-72%

C+	6	67-69%
C	5	63-66%
C-	4	60-62%
D+	3	57-59%
D	2	53-56%
D-	1	50-52%
F	0	0-49%

MSAF

The McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF) is a self-reporting tool in Mosaic. It is for Undergraduate Students to report absences that last up to 3 days and provides the ability to request accommodation for any missed academic work.

SAS

Student Accessibility Services (SAS) provides academic accommodation assistance and related supports to students with disabilities at McMaster.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

2021 FALL TERM (62 DAYS)

Classes begin	Tuesday, September 6
Last day for adding/dropping courses	Wednesday, September 14
Mid-term recess	Monday, October 10 to Sunday, October 16
Last day to withdraw without failure by default	Friday, November 18
Test and Examination Restriction	Fri, December 2 to Thurs, December 8
Classes end	Thursday, December 8
Final Examinations	Fri, December 9 to Thurs, December 22
Deferred examinations	Tues, February 21 to Friday, February 24

2022 WINTER TERM (62 DAYS)

Classes begin	Monday, January 9
Last day for adding/dropping courses	Tuesday, January 17
Mid-term recess	Monday, February 20 to Sun, February 26
Last day to withdraw without failure by default	Friday, March 17
Test and Examination Restriction	Friday, April 14 and Saturday, April 15
Good Friday Break	Wed, April 5 to Wed, April 12
Classes End	Wednesday, April 12
Final Examinations	Friday, April 14 to Friday, April 28
Deferred Examinations	Monday, June 19 to Friday, June 23



PULSE APP

Brightspace Pulse is an app students can use to stay connected and on track with their courses. The app will help you quickly view your courses to make decisions on how to handle your workload, when to submit assignments, and when to prepare for tests. It's a great resource to stay on top of your courses, assignments, and tests! Available on iOS and Android.

ACADEMIC RESOURCES

NOTE TAKING

Note taking is an essential part of the university process and makes a huge difference in your grades! Here are some resources to help you get better at taking notes and kill it in your courses!

Ten tips on notetaking <https://career-advice.jobs.ac.uk/career-development/top-ten-tips-on-note-taking/>

Effective note-taking in class <https://learningcenter.unc.edu/tips-and-tools/effective-note-taking-in-class/>

TEST ANXIETY

Struggle with test anxiety? We promise you are not alone in this! So, we've found a resource to help along the way. In addition to this resource, please seek out help from our Student Wellness Center if you need it!

Brown university tips for managing test anxiety
<https://www.brown.edu/campus-life/support/counseling-and-psychological-services/managing-test-anxiety>

CITATIONS

Ahhh citations, the arch nemesis of every university student. We've compiled a few resources to help you defeat your arch nemesis and ace those citation styles!

General

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/resources.html

Chicago style

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/chicago_manual_17th_edition/cmso_formatting_and_style_guide/chicago_manual_of_style_17th_edit

MLA

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_style_introduction.html

APA

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_style_introduction.html



**THE MSSS
WISHES
YOU AN
AMAZING
FIRST YEAR!
WELCOME
TO MAC**