
Academic Advising

ADDING & DROPPING COURSES

What is the maximum number of courses I can take?

Typically, students want to take a course beyond the number listed in their progression chart because they have previously failed or dropped a class. The maximum number of courses you can take per semester is determined by your progression chart. Depending on your program, this number usually ranges between 6 and 8 courses per semester. You can take one course over the maximum only in a semester where one of your courses is Physical Education and where your total number of courses would be no greater than 8. For example, if your progression chart lists 7 courses for your current semester, you can add an eighth course only if one of the courses you will be taking is Physical Education. However, if your progression chart lists 8 courses for your current semester, you are not permitted to take 9 courses, even if one of them is Physical Education.

You must see an Academic Advisor before registration if you would like to take one course over the maximum in any given semester.

Can I take a course that is not part of my program?

Priority to register in a course is given to students who require it for their program. Following the regular registration period, and space permitting, you may be able to register in a course that is not part of your program provided you meet the course pre-requisites. Keep in mind that since this course is not part of your program, you may have to take a course in the summer to stay on track and you may incur extra fees. Please see an Academic Advisor if you would like to take an out-of-program course.

You must see an Academic Advisor before registration if you would like to take a course that is not part of your program.

Can I re-take a course I've already passed?

Assuming you want to re-take the course in order to improve your grade, remember that the impact of one class on your overall R score is very small. For instance, a student applying to university in her fourth semester has typically completed approximately 21 courses. If she were to re-take a course, the additional R score would then contribute to 1/22 of her overall R score; in other words, it would change her R score only very slightly. The one instance where it may be worthwhile to re-take a passed course is for admission to business programs in university, since they often look at your math R score specifically (in addition to your overall R score).

How do I drop a course?

The Ministry of Education of Quebec mandates that the last day for dropping courses is September 19th in the fall semester and February 14th in the winter semester (where these dates fall on a weekend, the following school day is the deadline). You must meet with an Academic Advisor in order to drop a course. No written, email, MIO, or phone requests to drop courses will be granted.

What are the consequences to dropping a course?

Dropping courses can impact your graduation date, your university admission, your fees, your student loans, your medical insurance, your plans for summer vacation, and a number of other factors. Therefore, if you are thinking of dropping one or more courses, speak to an Academic Advisor, who will discuss the specific consequences of course drops with you.

Please note, in particular, that students who drop one or more courses may, as a consequence, be ineligible for admission to McGill in Law, Medicine, and Dentistry.