
Academic Advising

R-SCORE

What is the R-Score?

The R-Score is a calculation of your grades used by Quebec universities to gauge your academic performance in college. For each of your courses, you will receive an R-Score that takes into account 3 components: your *grade*, the *group average* (and standard deviation), and the *group strength* (which is determined by the high school grades of the students in the group). Your overall R-Score is a weighted average of the individual R-Scores you obtain for each of your courses.

Who is included in the “evaluation group” when calculating the group average and the group strength?

For each course, the “evaluation group” refers to all the students taking the same course in the same semester with the same course objectives and the same evaluation method. For instance, if you are taking Calculus I for science, the evaluation group will include all students taking Calculus I for science in that same semester, regardless of the teacher, since the course objectives and method of evaluation are identical across sections. As another example, if you are taking Spanish I as a complementary course, the evaluation group will include all students taking Spanish I as a complementary course that semester, regardless of teacher. However, it will not include students taking the same class as a concentration course, since the course objectives for a complementary course are not the same as those for a concentration course.

What R-Score do I need to be accepted to university?

The minimum R-Score required for university admission depends on the program and on the university; some programs require a very high R-Score, while others simply require that you have a college diploma, regardless of R-Score. As a general rule, the higher your R-Score, the more university programs you are eligible for. Each year, universities publish a list of the lowest R-Scores for the students who were admitted to each program.

Is the R-Score the only criteria used for admission to university?

Admission to many programs is based solely on your overall R-Score and, in some cases, your R-Score in specific courses (e.g. math courses, science courses). Admission to some programs is based on the R-Score in addition to other criteria, such as an admission essay, a CV, an interview, an audition, a portfolio, letters of recommendation, or entrance exams. Universities publish all admission criteria on their websites; an Academic Advisor can help you determine requirements for individual programs.

Will universities outside Quebec look at my R-Score?

Almost no universities outside Quebec take your R-Score into account. Those who do will still place the emphasis on your grades, not on your R-Score.

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I took a class but I didn't get an R-Score for it. Why not?

The evaluation group for a course must contain at least 6 grades above 50% in order for R-Scores to be calculated for that course. If the evaluation group does not meet this criterion, students in that evaluation group will not receive an R-Score for that particular course. You will still receive a grade for the course in question, but that grade will have no impact on your overall R-Score. Also, you will not receive an R-Score for mise-à-niveau courses.

Do summer courses and courses taken at other colleges count in my R-Score?

Yes. You will receive an R-Score for all courses, regardless of whether you take them during the regular school year or during the summer, as long as the evaluation group contains at least 6 grades of 50% or above.

Do failed courses count in my R-Score?

Yes. However, failed courses are given less weight in your overall R-Score. If you fail a course in your first semester, the R-Score you receive will only count for 25% of its weight in the calculation of the overall R-Score. This weight jumps to 50% for courses failed in any other semester. For example, if you fail a 2-credit course in your first semester, the R-Score you receive in that course will be calculated in your overall R-Score as though it were a 0.5-credit course. As a second example, if you fail a 2.66-credit course in your second, third or fourth semester, the R-Score you receive for that course will be calculated in your overall R-Score as if it were a 1.33-credit course.

It is important to note that if you re-take (and pass) the course, your R-Score for the passed course does not "replace" the R-Score for the failed course; it simply adds to the total number of courses taken into account when calculating your overall R-Score.

Can I re-take a course I passed to get a higher R-Score?

In terms of your overall R-Score, the impact of one class 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).

What happens to my R-Score if I change programs?

If you change programs, you will have two R-Scores: an overall R-Score and a program R-Score. As the name implies, your overall R-Score is the weighted average of all courses you've taken, regardless of program. Your program R-Score is the weighted average of only those courses that contribute to the objectives of your current program. Most universities will look at the program R-Score, but some (notably McGill) will only look at the overall R-Score.

My grades stayed the same, but my R-Score changed. What happened?

Because the R-Score takes into account the group average, it is possible for your R-Score to change because someone else's grade changed (for example, following a mark review or a deferred exam). The R-Score is calculated and updated five times per year. Changes to the R-Score formula, starting in Fall 2017, will be applied retroactively to Fall 2014. For details on the changes visit: <http://www.bci-qc.ca/etudiants/cote-r/>

Where can I find more information about the R-Score?

The R-Score is calculated by the Bureau de coopération interuniversitaire (BCI), a private, non-profit organization representing all of Quebec's universities. The BCI has published several informative documents on the R-Score, available at <http://www.bci-qc.ca/etudiants/cote-r/>