



BACHELOR OF ARTS

First-Year Planning Guide



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
Arts Academic Advising

arts.ubc.ca

Welcome to the Faculty of Arts!

We are excited to meet you soon. The Arts Academic Advising team has designed this guide to support your academic transition to UBC.

This guide will help you:

- Choose a first-year study option that best suits your academic interests and learning preferences.
- Identify your academic interests to select courses.
- Understand the Bachelor of Arts degree requirements.
- Create worklists and prepare for registration.
- Learn about UBC resources to support your academics and wellbeing.

How to use this guide:

- Download and save this fillable PDF.
- There is no need to read the whole guide right away!
- You will receive a series of newsletter emails that will focus on sections of this guide.
- Register to attend the [advising workshops](#) related to each section of this guide to learn more and ask questions.

If you are a BFA, BIE, BMS, or BMus student, please follow the structure of your degree program and connect with your program-specific Academic Advisor for any questions.

Contents

Part 1: Exploring Your Interests

Identify your interests and find subject areas available in the Faculty of Arts.

- [Online Workshop](#): Tuesday, May 23, 2023, 4-5pm PDT

Part 2: Choosing Your First-Year Study Option

Learn about first-year study options and identify the most suitable one for you.

- [Online Workshop](#): Monday May 29, 2023, 4-5pm PDT

Part 3: Understanding Credits and Degree Requirements

Learn about the BA degree requirements and how many credits to register for.

- [Online Workshop](#): Monday, June 5, 2023, 4-5pm PDT

Part 4: Visualizing Your First-Year Plan

Map out your course schedule and create worklists to prepare for registration.

- [Online Workshop](#): Monday, June 12, 2023, 4-5pm PDT

Part 5: Discovering UBC Resources

Learn about resources to support your academics and wellbeing.

- [Online Workshop](#): Wednesday, June 28, 2023, 4-5pm PDT

Part 1: Exploring Your Interests

Your first year at UBC is about transitioning to university life, exploring your academic interests, and selecting courses that will spark your curiosity. As you move further into your degree, you will think about your major more seriously and focus more of your courses on program requirements.

Enjoy learning more about your interests and new academic disciplines in your first year. Exploring now will help you feel confident when the time comes to choose or apply for a major in second or third year.

Step one: Understand your personal and academic interests

Reflect on your personal interests and curiosities. Ask yourself questions like:

- What was your favorite subject in high school (or previous studies) and why?
- What do you want to learn more about?
- What skills would you like to develop?
- If you could do any work in the world, what would it be?

Note your ideas here:

Step two: Discover Arts programs

Browse the [Faculty of Arts program options](#) to find academic programs that interest you.

Arts programs cover three broad disciplines: Humanities, Social Sciences, and the Arts.

Humanities	Social Sciences	Arts
African Studies	Anthropology	Acting
Ancient Mediterranean & Near Eastern Studies	Archaeology	Art History
Asian Studies	Cognitive Systems	Creative Writing
Canadian Studies	Economics	Film Production
Chinese	First Nations & Indigenous Studies	Film Studies
French	Geography	Music
History	Linguistics	Theatre
Philosophy	Psychology	Theatre: Design & Production
Romance Studies	Sociology	Visual Arts
+ more	Urban Studies	+ more
	+ more	

Note the programs that interest you here:

Step three: Browse courses on the UBC course schedule

- Login to the [Student Service Centre](#) (SSC) and click the “course schedule” button.
- Select “UBC Vancouver” and the correct Session (e.g., 2023 Winter).
- Browse for introductory (100-level) courses by clicking into specific subject codes. For example, if you are interested in Anthropology, click on “ANTH”, find the 100-level course(s), and click on the course (ANTH 100) to read the course description.

Note the courses that interest you here:

Part 2: Choosing Your First-Year Study Option

As a Bachelor of Arts student, you do not declare or apply for a major in your first year. Instead, you choose one of three first-year study options to develop your academic interests. These will prepare you for when you add a major or minor before your third year.

*Arts One and CAP are full-year programs.
You will not be able to change your registration in the programs after the [Term 1 add/drop deadline](#).*

The Faculty of Arts offers three first-year study options:

- [Arts One](#)
- [Coordinated Arts Program \(CAP\)](#)
- [Custom Timetable](#)

After your first year, you will build custom timetables until you graduate. If you are having trouble choosing a study option, take this short quiz to understand your learning preferences:

Check the options that you prefer:

List A	List B
<input type="checkbox"/> Learning in smaller classes <input type="checkbox"/> Being part of a cohort <input type="checkbox"/> Receiving individualized academic support <input type="checkbox"/> Having a cohesive theme to my courses	<input type="checkbox"/> The flexibility to choose all my courses <input type="checkbox"/> Meeting new people in all of my classes <input type="checkbox"/> Designing my own daily schedule <input type="checkbox"/> Being able to change classes in Term 2

If you have selected more factors from **List A**, we recommend one of the first-year study options: [Arts One or the Coordinated Arts Program \(CAP\)](#).

If you have selected more factors from **List B**, we recommend building a **custom timetable** for your first year.

Part 3: Understanding Credits and Degree Requirements

First-Year Credits

A Bachelor of Arts degree is comprised of a minimum of 120 credits. If your goal is to graduate in four years, you should complete 30 credits per year.

A one-term course is typically three credits. Courses that span two-terms over the Winter Session are typically 6 credits. Many students take five courses each term, resulting in 15 credits per term and 30 credits over the Winter Session.

How many credits should you register in?
The right credit load for each person will differ depending on life situation and individual learning preferences.

Be mindful of the time commitments required for everything you want to achieve during your first year and plan courses accordingly.

Don't forget that you can also take courses in the Summer Session!

Credit considerations:

You can take up to 32 credits (equivalent to 10 courses) in your first Winter Session.

You need to complete at least 27 credits by the end of Winter Session Term 2 in order to advance to Year 2 standing for the following Winter Session. [Read more about promotion requirements.](#)

To be considered a full-time Arts student, you need to be registered in at least 9 credits per term.

Be sure you are aware of the minimum course loads you are required to maintain for funding, study permit, housing, athletics, or awards and scholarships eligibility.



How high school transfer credits work

Everything you need to know about high school transfer credit and UBC Arts.

[Read the Blog](#)

*UBC's Winter Session is divided into two terms:
Term 1 (September – December)
Term 2 (January – April)*

*UBC's Summer Session is divided into two terms:
Term 1 (May – June)
Term 2 (July – August)*

Bachelor of Arts (BA) Degree Requirements

Your Bachelor of Arts degree will be composed of faculty-wide requirements, program-specific (Honours, major, minor) requirements, and electives.

Overview of BA requirements

- Degree credit minimum (120 credits)
- Writing and Research (6 credits)
- Language (3 options)
- Science (6 credits)
- Literature (6 credits)
- Major (42+ credits)
- Outside the field of study (60* credits)
- Upper-level credits (48* credits)
- Arts credit minimum (72* credits)

Degree Requirements

Faculty-Wide Requirements

Program-Specific Requirements

Electives

Faculty-Wide Requirements

Requirements to plan for in first-year:

Writing Requirement (3 credits)

Being able to read, write, and research at the university level is fundamental to your future academic success. To meet this requirement in your first year, you can take WRDS 150A (*Writing and Research in the Disciplines*), ENGL 100 (*Reading and Writing about Literature*), or enroll in Arts One or CAP.

Language Requirement (proficiency)

The study of languages provides insight into cultures and having knowledge of a second language is a valuable life skill. You are encouraged to fulfill this requirement within your first 2 years. If you are an Indigenous student, consider speaking with an [Arts Indigenous Student Advisor](#) about your options.

Requirements that must be completed before graduation:

Research Requirement (3 credits)

The research requirement is typically connected to your honours or major program and completed later in your degree.

Literature Requirement (6 credits)

You may be interested in 100-level course options that fulfill the literature requirement, but it is not mandatory to complete these in first year.

Science Requirement (6 credits)

The science requirement will strengthen your understanding and appreciation of scientific methods, applications, and reasoning.



Making sense of degree requirements

In your first year as a Bachelor of Arts student, it's important to get an overview of all requirements in order to navigate your degree efficiently.

[Read the Blog](#)



How the Language Requirement Works

Arts Academic Advisor Chavah Avraham explains how the language requirement works and why language learning is valuable to your Arts degree and beyond.

[Read the Blog](#)

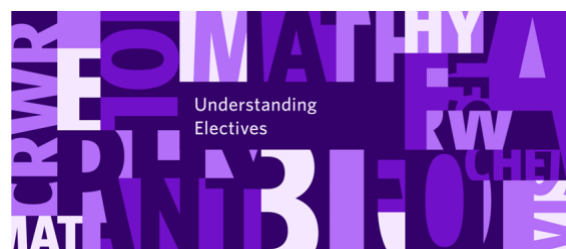
Program-Specific Requirements

If you know what program(s) (Major, Minor, Honours) you are interested in, go to the [Program Options](#) page to find links to department/program websites and the [Academic Calendar](#) to see a program's course requirements. First-year students are encouraged to start from the 100-level requirements as many upper-level (300 – 400) courses have 100-level courses as pre-requisites.

Pre-requisites are specific courses that you must complete before you can take upper-level courses. It is important to investigate which pre-requisites may be required for courses you will take later. You can see pre-requisites in the Course Schedule when registering.

Electives

Electives are courses that do not fulfill program or Faculty-wide requirements. Electives are an important part of your degree because they count towards credit requirements and let you explore subjects outside of your program.



Understanding Electives

Arts Academic Advisor Janelle Blackman shares her advice to help you make confident decisions about choosing electives and understanding how beneficial they are to an individual and intentional education.

[Read the Blog](#)

Part 4: Visualizing Your First-Year Plan

Visualize your course schedule

Before you build a worklist and start registering for courses, it's a good idea to write down some ideas for your course plan. You can register for up to 32 credits in the Winter Session.

Arts One and CAP are year-long, 18-credit commitments, so you can add up to 2 more courses each term (12 credits) if you enroll in either program. If you choose a 6-credit course, it will span across terms 1-2.

Fill the empty rows of your preferred first-year study option with the courses you want to add:

**Return to page 6 of this guide to review your list of courses that interest you.*

Arts One

Term 1	Term 2
Arts One (3 credits)	Arts One (3 credits)
Arts One (3 credits)	Arts One (3 credits)
Arts One (3 credits)	Arts One (3 credits)

Coordinated Arts Program

Term 1	Term 2
CAP (3 credits)	CAP (3 credits)
CAP (3 credits)	CAP (3 credits)
CAP (3 credits)	CAP (3 credits)

Custom Timetable

Term 1	Term 2

**Include either WRSDS 150A or ENGL 100 in Term 1 or Term 2*



Five steps to first-year course planning

Five steps that you can take to begin visualizing your first-year plan.

[Read the Blog](#)

Prepare for registration

Step 1: Use the Worklist tool

Now that you've visualized the courses you're thinking about taking in first year, use UBC's Worklist tool to map out potential timetables (your weekly course schedule).



[Watch the UBC Course Schedule Worklist Overview](#)

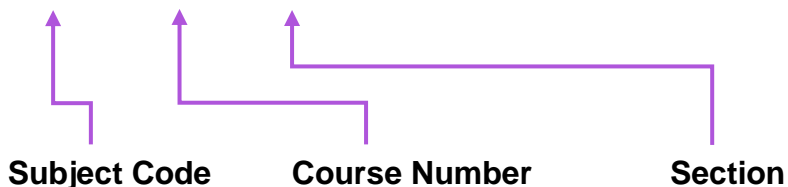
[Log in to the UBC Course Schedule](#) to start building your worklist. [View sample Worklist timetables](#) to understand how to build yours. When you save a course to a worklist it does not register you in the course, it simply helps you design your schedule and find out if you meet the requirements (pre-requisites) to register for a particular course.

Give yourself enough time to get to class when planning back-to-back classes, especially if they're in different buildings. Use [UBC Wayfinding](#) to see the distance you'll need to travel between buildings.

We recommend making a few worklists, as occasionally the course sections that you hope to take will be full on your registration day.

Understanding terminology in the UBC Course Schedule

PHIL 101 001



This subject area is philosophy

This is a 100-level course

Some courses may have multiple “sections” listed that correspond to the days, times, and term the course is offered. You can choose a specific section of course to create a timetable to meet your learning and schedule preferences.

Courses can have different [formats](#) and sizes. Regardless of the format, you can always connect with your instructors by asking questions during class and attending instructor office hours.

Step 2: Prepare to register

You'll receive an email about one week before registration opens to let you know that your specific registration date is posted on the [Student Services Centre \(SSC\)](#).

How to register

Register for Winter Session Terms 1 and 2 at the same time.

Log in to the SSC, select the Vancouver Campus and the correct Winter Session year.

Select your ideal worklist, check the sections you want and click **register selected**. To register in all the courses in your worklist, click **register all**. Or, to register for single courses at a time without using a worklist, go to any course section and click **register section**.

Attend a Registration Tutorial

Sign up for an Arts Advising Registration Tutorial to learn how to build your Worklist. Bring a list of courses you're interested in to the tutorial.

June 16, 2023, 11AM-12PM

June 19, 2023, 4-5PM

Register to attend

The **registration period** for first-year students begins June 20 to 22, 2023.

You'll be able to register any time between your registration open date and the [course change \(add/drop\) deadline](#) in September.

Arts One Registration Guide

CAP Registration Guide



5 questions to ask yourself before adding or dropping a course

Arts Academic Advisor Jessica King shares why the add/drop period exists, plus tips to help you make confident decisions about adding or dropping courses.

[Read the Blog](#)

Part 5: Discovering UBC Resources

UBC is full of resources to support your academics and wellbeing. You will have plenty of time to explore these resources during your degree, but here are some key services to keep in mind as you head into your first year.

Academic & Learning Resources

Make informed and thoughtful decisions throughout your undergraduate degree with the help of Arts Academic Advising.

Navigate your academic journey with peer-to-peer support from Arts Peer Advisors or Arts Peer Academic Coaches.

Learn more about how Arts Indigenous Student Advising (AISA) supports the success of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students.

Funding & Financial Resources

You have a dedicated Enrolment Services Advisor (ESA) who can help answer your questions about tuition, funding and transcripts.

Explore the financial support options available to you by considering a student loan, applying for a scholarship or bursary, or browsing through job opportunities.

International Student Support

View the International Student Guide for support on immigration, health insurance, and dedicated International Student Advising.

Health & Wellbeing

Thrive at UBC by taking care of your mental and physical health and wellbeing. Discover the many confidential and personalized support options available to you.

Stay active with the wide variety of programs offered through UBC Recreation.

Involvement & Community

Jump Start is a multi-day program designed to give you a first look at university life, meet your professors and make your first friends at UBC Vancouver!

Enrich your undergraduate experience through involvement opportunities.

Get involved with like-minded people, make friends, and build leadership skills in one of the many UBC AMS Clubs.

If you'll be commuting to UBC, consider registering for Collegia. Indigenous students also have access to the ṣxʷta:təxʷəm Collegium.

Explore the Indigenous student resources, spaces, and groups on campus.

Discover the UBC Arts & Culture District.

Hungry? See what's cooking on campus.

Calendar

May 23, 2023, 4-5PM	<u><i>First-Year Planning Part 1: Exploring Your Interests</i></u>
May 29, 2023, 4-5PM	<u><i>First-Year Planning Part 2: Choosing Your First-Year Study Option</i></u>
June 5, 2023, 4-5PM	<u><i>First-Year Planning Part 3: Understanding Credits and Degree Requirements</i></u>
June 12, 2023, 4-5PM	<u><i>First-Year Planning Part 4: Visualizing Your First-Year Plan</i></u>
June 15, 2023, 4-5PM	<u><i>First-Year Planning: Full Overview of the First-Year Planning Guide</i></u>
June 16, 2023, 11AM-12PM	<u><i>Registration Tutorial</i></u>
June 19, 2023, 4-5PM	<u><i>Registration Tutorial</i></u>
June 28, 2023, 4-5PM	<u><i>First-Year Planning Part 5: Discovering UBC Resources</i></u>

Register to attend the First-Year Planning Workshops

Follow UBC Arts! Read stories, find opportunities, and learn about life in the Faculty of Arts.

arts.ubc.ca | [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)