



Faculty of Arts



A Student's Guide to Memorial's Bachelor of Arts

This guide is produced by the Faculty of Arts at Memorial University of Newfoundland in 2007.

Regulations in this guide are current at the time of printing
Please seek guidance from advisors, as mentioned in this guide.

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A Student's Guide to Memorial's BA

About this Guide

Memorial's bachelor of arts (BA) degree was modified in 1998. Students participated at all stages of the discussion, and were among the strongest supporters of the new degree structure.

The BA degree affirms the value of free and broad-ranging intellectual inquiry, and provides students with the opportunity to become well educated through a balanced program of studies. These studies include focused and specialized work in at least two disciplines (your major and your minor, or a double major) as well as study in a variety of other subjects.

Through studies that lead to a BA, you will have honed these skills: you will be able to read effectively; to gather information from all sorts of research sources; to write analytically and persuasively; to share ideas; to appreciate other points of view; and to think critically.

This guide will answer some questions you might have about the regulations for the general degree of bachelor of arts, and explain the components of the degree.

How the guide is set up

The official regulations for degree components and for core requirements of the BA, as they appear in the Calendar, are printed in a different typeface and indented, like this:

The official regulations look like this...

Information and explanations that follow these official regulations are designed to clarify and to answer questions about how they apply to you.

Other sources of information and advice about your academic program

- A summary of degree regulations, with suggested first-year courses, is printed in the *Guide to First Year* supplied to students before or during the high school interview.
- Full degree regulations on the major, the minor and elective components of the degree can be found each year in the **University Calendar**, available through the Office of the Registrar and online at: www.mun.ca/regoff/calendar
- Academic advisers are available to offer explanations, guidance and advice.
 - To make an appointment with the Faculty of Arts Senior Faculty Adviser. call (709) 737-8254.
 - Contact the university's Academic Advising Centre at (709)737-8801
 - Or contact the faculty adviser or head in the department of your major.

Do these regulations apply to me?

They do if your student number begins with 98 or higher. If you entered Memorial **before** September 1998, you may follow the old degree regulations, or you may choose to follow these regulations.

IMPORTANT TIP

As you progress toward completion of your degree, it is important to ensure that you are on the right track. The best way to do this is to request an Academic Audit. This will show you exactly what you need to do—and can even indicate the minimum final grade you need in a particular course or courses in order to satisfy graduation requirements.

As a general rule, a good time to request your (first) audit is when you start your third year, or when you have completed about 20 credits.

To apply for an Academic Audit, you can complete and submit the Request for Degree Advice form available at <http://www.mun.ca/regoff/advising/>. Or you can contact the person responsible for Arts audits in the Registrar's Office by calling (709) 737-4428.

DEGREE COMPONENTS: Majors and Minors

The General Degree of Bachelor of Arts consists of the following components:

- **courses from a set of Core Requirements, some of which may also satisfy requirements of the Major and Minor programs**

The core requirements are designed to ensure that our BA graduates have covered a wide range of inquiry in their studies and learned the techniques of successful research and effective writing.

- **an approved concentration of courses known as the Major program**
- **an approved concentration of courses known as the Minor program**
- **elective courses**

A candidate for the General Degree of Bachelor of Arts must complete a minimum of 120 credit hours in courses subject to the following regulations.

What is a major?

A major is the subject area on which you intend to concentrate your studies. It gives you a high degree of specialization, and ensures your degree program has depth.

You must successfully complete the required number of courses within your major — between 12 and 15 courses (36-45 credit hours), depending on the discipline you choose.

Students can also declare a second major if they plan to complete the required courses in two subject areas.

What areas can I major in?

Anthropology/Archaeology
Canadian Studies**
Classics
Computer Science
Drama and Music*
Economics
English Language and Literature
Folklore
French
Geography
German language and literature
History
Linguistics
Pure mathematics/statistics
Medieval studies**
Philosophy
Political Science
Psychology
Religious Studies
Russian language and literature
Sociology
Sociology/anthropology*
Spanish

* Drama & Music and Sociology/Anthropology are what we call “interdisciplinary majors,” which means they draw on components from more than one department or discipline.

** Canadian Studies and Medieval Studies are also interdisciplinary majors. You can only choose to major in these subjects as a second major.

What is a minor?

If a student is doing just one major, they must declare a "minor" area of study as well, in which they will complete 8 courses (24 credit hours). The minor provides further depth in your degree, though not as concentrated or specialized as the major.

You may, if you wish, do a second major instead of a minor.

What are my choices for a minor?

The minor can be in any of the subjects listed as a major, or in the following:

Aboriginal Studies	Business Administration
European Studies	German Studies
Law and Society	Music and Culture
Music History	Newfoundland Studies
Russian Studies	Women's Studies
Faculty of Science subject areas	

How do I sign up to do a major and minor?

You “declare” a major or a minor by using the Declaration/Change of Academic Program form available from the Office of the Registrar or the Academic Advising Centre (SN-4053), or online at <http://www.mun.ca/regoff/forms.php>.

When do I declare my major?

Arts students can declare a major at any time in their studies. Some choose to declare a major when they register in first year; others wait until they have completed a few semesters of study. Students are free to change their minds and their majors at any time!

Some departments have particular expectations of students who wish to declare a major in their area; others have selective and competitive admission standards. To determine the expectations in your department, you are advised to speak to the undergraduate student adviser or the department head of your prospective major.

Once declared, can I change my major/minor?

Yes. If you decide to change either your major or your minor during your studies, you may do so using the Declaration/Change of Academic Program.

Will that be considered a change of program?

No, for the purposes of things such as student loans, a change of program relates to changing the degree you are pursuing (for example, changing from a BA to a Bsc). However, depending on the stage of your studies, you might find that you will need to do additional courses to meet all the requirements of your new choice.

CORE REQUIREMENTS

2. *Core Requirements*

All candidates must complete the following Core Requirements. Courses satisfying Core Requirements may also be used to satisfy requirements of Major and Minor programs, subject to notes 1, 2 and 3 ... (found on page 10)

What are the core requirements?

The core requirements, which are explained in depth in this guide, are:

- 6 credit hours in courses in English at the first-year level.
- 6 credit hours in courses in a single language other than English, or demonstration of equivalent competency in a second language.
- 6 credit hours in courses that focus on numeracy/science.
- 12 credit hours in courses in at least two subject areas chosen from the Humanities
- 12 credit hours in courses in at least two subject areas chosen from the Social Sciences
- 6 credit hours in courses in Social Sciences or Humanities which are designated research/writing courses

Do some of the courses I take for my major and minor also count as core requirements?

Yes, some core courses will also fulfill the requirements of your major or minor.

For example, the Research/writing courses needed for the degree may be offered in the department of your major and/or minor, and at the same time fulfill part of the humanities or social science core requirements. In this way, a single research/writing course may meet up to three degree requirements at the same time.

By selecting courses that meet several requirements, you will have more room for electives in the 120 credit-hour degree.

- a) English Requirement. Six credit hours in courses in English at the first-year level.**

Why English?

Every faculty and school at Memorial requires university-level courses in English as a condition of admission or graduation. These courses make you a more effective writer and a more critical reader, and help foster skills which are highly valued in the workplace. If you can't communicate efficiently and precisely, your best ideas will go unrecognized and unrewarded!

- b) Second Language Requirement. Six credit hours in courses in a single language other than English, or demonstration of equivalent competency in a second language.**

Why should I study a language other than English?

It can be a real advantage to speak another language, or at least to have some knowledge of one. Each language contains unique concepts and perspectives. Studying a second language can foster a greater awareness of the cultural diversity that exists. While two courses won't make you fluent, you'll get to know something of how other people think and live.

As well, instant communications and globalization of trade mean a smaller world with lots of contact with our neighbours, many of whom do not speak English.

How do I meet this requirement?

Lots of ways. In fact, you may already have met it.

FRENCH IMMERSION

If you did French immersion at high school, passing Français 3202 (or 3212), you've already shown that you can function in another language. You don't earn university CREDITS for having successfully completed French immersion, but you do get a WAIVER of the requirement to include two second language courses in your degree.

(CONTINUED)

ADVANCED PLACEMENT IN A SECOND LANGUAGE

If you pass an Advanced Placement exam in another language, you may be awarded course credits at Memorial. Grades of 4 or 5, for example, on the AP exam in French language earn you six university credit hours, and a grade of 3 earns three credit hours.

These credit hours can be used to fulfill the second language requirement and are also applicable to the 120 credit hours specified for the BA degree.

DOING HIGH SCHOOL IN A LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH

In the same way, if you've completed high school in a language other than English, this requirement is waived. (Of course, you must meet requirements for competence in English for admission to Memorial.)

CHALLENGING FOR CREDIT

If you think your background in a second language could earn you a passing grade on a final exam in a first-year university language course, you can apply to challenge for credit. For example, you may have learned another language at home, or studied a language other than French at school.

You must first pay a fee (currently half of what is charged for tuition in a course), then do oral and written exams to see if your language skills are as good as those of students who successfully complete a first-year language course at Memorial.

Getting credit for one course in this way will fulfill half of the second language requirement. If you're then successful in challenging for the course beyond that, you'll have earned credits for two courses (six credit hours) AND fulfilled the second language requirement.

I don't have a second language experience – how do I meet the requirement?

If the above situations don't apply to you, there are many different languages taught at Memorial which you can study at the beginner's level or at a more advanced level.

Take note of the following departments and the languages that they offer:

- Classics [Latin and Greek]
- French and Spanish [French, Spanish and Italian]
- German and Russian [Russian and German]
- Religious Studies [Mandarin Chinese and Hebrew]
- Linguistics [Innu-aimun, Inuktitut, Mi'kmaq and Sanskrit plus special topics courses in languages like Japanese, Arabic and Irish Gaelic, which are offered from time to time.]

Keep in mind that not all these languages are offered every semester.

If you're doing a degree with a major in German, for example, you don't have to do all the courses needed for the German major PLUS two further courses to satisfy the second language requirement. By doing a German degree, you're already including within your major the courses needed for the second language requirement.

- c) Numeracy/Science Requirement. Six credit hours in courses chosen from the Science List below.**

Do I have to take math?

Only majors in geography, computer science, economics and psychology require mathematics courses. Others pursuing a BA can fulfill their numeracy/science requirement by taking any two three-credit courses from the list on the next page.

Why should I have to do science/math in an arts degree?

Issues in science have a big impact on us all, and being acquainted with these issues can help different people investigate a whole range of concerns—from sociologists studying the effects of declining fish stocks on coastal communities to historians dealing with the industrial revolution.

Also, facts and figures are often used to back up positions taken by special interest groups and politicians. An educated citizen should have the tools to evaluate their claims, and a background in science, with its quantitative approach, will help to provide a solid framework for weighing up the evidence in an argument.

Courses in the areas below will fulfill the numeracy/science requirement:

Faculty of Arts

- Geography courses **with labs**
- Economics 2010 and 2020

Faculty of Science

- Biochemistry
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Computer science
- Earth science
- Mathematics and statistics
- Physics
- Psychology
- Science 1000, 1150, 1151, 3000, 3001

Environmental Sciences courses at Sir Wilfred Grenfell College

Courses in the Faculty of Engineering

- d) Humanities Requirement. 12 credit hours in courses in at least two disciplines chosen from the Humanities List below. These courses are exclusive of the minimum requirements for English and a second language as stated in a) and b) above.**
- e) Social Sciences Requirement. 12 credit hours in courses in at least two disciplines chosen from the Social Sciences List below.**

Which courses apply to social sciences? To humanities?

These are the two important streams within Arts, and you must take four courses in each area. Most disciplines fall under one or the other, although there is some overlap. You have to include courses from these two streams in your degree.

Social sciences	Humanities	Can count as either
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anthropology • Economics • Folklore • Geography • History • Linguistics • Political Science • Sociology • Environmental Studies 1000, 2000 at Sir Wilfred Grenfell College • Women's Studies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classics • English • French and Spanish • German and Russian • History • Medieval Studies 2000 • Philosophy • Religious Studies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History • Law and Society 2000 • Women's Studies 2000

NOTES:

- 1) **Where a department offers two distinct disciplines, students who major and minor in that department can apply up to 18 credit hours from the Major and Minor to satisfy Core Requirements. For example, a student doing a German Major and a Russian Minor may complete 18 credit hours applicable to core requirements in courses in the Department of German and Russian: nine credit hours in German to fulfill the second language requirement as well as three of the required 12 credit hours in a humanities discipline. The remaining nine credit hours in Humanities could be fulfilled by Russian courses done for the Minor.**

This applies only if you're doing BOTH your major and your minor in the same language department—either French and Spanish, or German and Russian.

- 2) **All non-laboratory Geography courses are designated Social Science courses. All Geography courses with laboratories are designated Science courses. The three-course limit in one department for meeting Core Requirements will apply.**

This means that you can use up to three, but no more than three, geography courses to meet both the numeracy/science requirement and the social science requirement.

- 3) **Where a department or program is listed in both the Humanities and Social Science Lists, the three-course limit in one department for meeting Core Requirements will apply.**

This means that you can use up to three, but no more than three, history courses to help meet the humanities AND social sciences requirements.

What do these requirements mean for my degree?

How this affects you will depend on whether the major and/or minor that you might choose fall into social sciences or humanities, or neither. **Look to see which one of the following combinations (→) of major and minor apply to you, and read the corresponding information below it.**

→Both your major and your minor are on the humanities list:

If both your major and minor are on the humanities list, you will cover the humanities requirement with three courses from the major and one from the minor.

The only **exception** to this is if your major or minor is in English, or in a language.

Since courses in these disciplines already count as part of the core requirements, you can use only one more course from English and only one more course from the language you use to meet the second language requirement for the humanities requirement. There's a three-course limit on using courses from the same subject for core requirements, so you will have to go beyond these subjects to make up the total of four humanities courses.

To meet the social sciences requirement, you'll have to include four courses chosen from at least two different subject areas on the social science list. You could do one course from each of four different areas, or two courses from two areas, or three courses from one area plus one from another area.

→Both your major and your minor are on the social sciences list:

Courses from the major and minor will cover the social science requirement. If you're majoring in sociology and minoring in folklore, for instance, both of these are considered social sciences, so there are no further courses needed for the social science requirement.

However, you will need to broaden your degree program by doing a total of FOUR courses in humanities from at least TWO different subject areas. For these, you can only count one more English course and one more course from the language area that you are using to meet the second language requirement.

→Your major and minor are split between social sciences and humanities:

If your major and minor are split between humanities and social sciences, then ONE course in another humanities subject and ONE course in another social science subject must be included in your degree.

→Your major is in social sciences or humanities, and your minor is in science, business or music history:

If your major is in social sciences or humanities but your minor is in science, business or music history, then you have to (i) do a total of FOUR courses in at least TWO different subjects within the Arts stream that does not include your major and (ii) make sure you include in your degree one more course from the list which includes your major (but not in the subject of your major).

→**Your major is in computer science, mathematics and statistics or psychology, and your minor is in science, business or music history:**

Finally, if both your major and minor are in subject areas not on the humanities and social sciences lists, then you must include a total of EIGHT courses in at least FOUR subjects – four courses in at least two different social science subjects; four courses in at least two different humanities subjects – in your degree.

- f) **Research/Writing Requirement. Completion of six credit hours in courses in Social Sciences or Humanities which are designated research/writing courses will satisfy Clause 2.(f) and may concurrently satisfy six credit hours from Clause 2.(d) and/or 2.(e) above.**

What are Research/Writing courses?

Research and writing skills are keys to life-long learning. No one can imagine NOW all the new knowledge you'll have to work with in 10 or 20 years time, but we can show what you'll have to do to FIND & COMMUNICATE this information. Research/writing courses, designed with the help of our first-rate library staff, guide you in the search for information wherever it's to be found—whether in the library, among a target survey group, or online. And because it's critical to communicate your findings effectively, research/writing courses give you practice in organizing, analyzing, drafting and editing, to make your communication orderly and clear. To allow time for acquiring and refining these skills, at least 30 per cent of these courses are devoted to research and writing.

How do I know which courses qualify as Research/Writing courses?

They're marked with a letter 'R' in the column with the heading 'ATTR' (which stands for Course Attribute) in the 'Slot Book' (the Undergraduate Registration Procedures booklet) issued every semester, or on the web course listing. The letter R indicates that a course section is designated as a research/writing course.

Do I have to take Research/Writing courses on top of all these other required courses?

No—all research/writing courses are also either social sciences or humanities courses, and may also be included in your major or minor.

The only exception is that you can apply just one research/writing course in English to the Core Requirements, and just one research/writing course in the department of the second language used to meet the second language requirement. This is because there is a three-course limit per subject applicable to the core courses for the BA (see Note 1 below)—and two courses in English and two in the same second language are already required.

When should I meet the core requirements?

Students are strongly advised to complete the Core Requirements within the first 60 credit hours of the undergraduate program.

It's an advantage to have core requirements completed before your third year. By doing a variety of courses in your first two years, you will be in a better position to make informed choices about the best major and minor for you. You'll also find yourself with more flexibility in your timetable, which is important for courses offered by small departments that may only be able to schedule required courses for the major and minor once per year.

Also, the skills you pick up in research/writing courses can be put to good use in courses beyond the second year. In fact, instructors will be expecting their students to have developed these skills by the time they do courses at the 3000/4000 levels.

NOTES:

- 1) To satisfy the minimum Core Requirements, students shall take no more than nine credit hours in courses from any one discipline.**

This means that you can use only one more English course (beyond the two already used for the English requirement) and only one more course in the second language used to meet the second language requirement towards the humanities and the research/writing requirements. This is the 'three-course' limit referred to in relation to the humanities and research/writing requirements earlier in the guide.

- 2) Students may apply up to nine credit hours of the Core Requirements towards the Major program and up to nine credit hours of the Core Requirements towards the Minor program.**

This makes sure you don't get too narrowly focused in your major and minor. If you're doing an interdisciplinary program such as Canadian studies, please contact the Senior Faculty Advisor for Arts, or the Academic Advising Centre to determine how these regulations apply to you.

- 3) Specific Core Requirements may also be satisfied by the demonstration of equivalent competency in accordance with University regulations, e.g., advanced standing, challenge for credit, etc.**

What are electives?

Electives are the courses you are free to choose that you don't HAVE to do to meet the requirements of your degree program and your major(s)/minor.

All BA degree programs will require you to do courses outside of your own major and minor disciplines to meet core requirements. This helps ensure each graduate has benefited from a breadth of learning.

Some major/minor combinations will leave you with more free choices than others. You can find yourself with as many as 12, or as few as six, free choices of electives. The number of electives you can include in your degree will depend on many factors, but mainly on the kinds of courses which can count towards core requirements.

There are several things to keep in mind:

- To receive the General Degree of Bachelor of Arts, you must complete a minimum of 120 credit hours – usually 40 courses.
- At least 26 of these courses **MUST** be done in departments/programs that offer the BA degree. These are the same as those areas listed as offering major or minor programs on the preceding pages.
- Of the 14 remaining courses, at least 9 must be chosen from the Faculties of Arts, Science or Business, or in music history or music theory.
- The remaining 5 of these 14 are ‘open electives’—meaning just about any for degree credit course offered in a faculty or school at Memorial qualifies (including courses in Education, Physical Education, Social Work, Engineering etc.). The courses which **DON’T** qualify are those which are clearly practical or professional, such as coaching courses, clinical practica or studio courses. Please consult the calendar for details.

CHECKLIST FOR THE B.A. CORE REQUIREMENTS

- Two 1000 level English courses
- Two courses in a second language (the **SAME** language)
- Two courses in numeracy / science
- Four courses in at least two disciplines chosen from the Humanities list
- Four courses in at least two disciplines chosen from the Social Sciences list
- Two research/writing courses

QUESTIONS?

Please talk to the department head or faculty adviser of your intended major or minor, or make an appointment with the Faculty of Arts Senior Faculty Adviser by calling (709) 737-8254.