



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 2010.**

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

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.

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 advising session.
- Full degree regulations on the major, the minor, “core” 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 advisors 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
 - Each department in the Faculty of Arts has an Undergraduate Academic Advisor. Contact the Advisor in the department of your major(s) and minor.

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:

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.

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

- an approved concentration of courses known as the **major** program
- an approved concentration of courses known as the **minor** program
- courses from a set of core requirements, some of which may also satisfy requirements of the major and minor programs
- electives

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.

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
Communications Studies*	Computer Science
Drama and Music*	Economics
English Language and Literature	Folklore
French	Geography
German	History
Law and Society*	Linguistics
Pure mathematics/statistics	Medieval studies**
Philosophy	Police Studies*
Political Science	Psychology
Religious Studies	Russian Sociology
Sociology/anthropology*	Spanish
Women's Studies	

* These programs 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.

NOTE: Studies completing an interdisciplinary major program must choose a Minor (or a second Major) in a single discipline.

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 at least 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.

NOTE: Students completing an interdisciplinary minor program must choose a major in a single discipline.

What are my choices for a minor?

The minor can be in any of the subjects listed as a major, (except CNST, CMST and PLST) or in the following:

Aboriginal Studies	Business Administration
European Studies	Film Studies
Music and Culture	Music History
Newfoundland and Labrador 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/minor?

Arts students can declare a major at any time in their studies or even when they apply for admission to the university. Some wait until they have completed a few semesters of study. Students are free to change their minds and their majors at any time!

The only Arts majors that require a departmental signature are the following: computer science, pure mathematics and statistics. Students planning to complete a major in psychology must apply to the Department of Psychology and should contact the department concerning admission requirements and deadlines.

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

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 pages 10 and 11).

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
- 6 credit hours in courses which are designated research/writing courses
- 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

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.

“English Requirement. Six credit hours in courses in English at the first-year level.”

– University Calendar

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!

“Second Language Requirement. Six credit hours in courses in a single language other than English, or demonstration of equivalent competency in a second language.”

– University Calendar

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 CREDIT for having successfully completed French immersion, but you do get a WAIVER of the requirement to include two second language courses in your degree.

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.

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.

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.

“Numeracy/Science Requirement.

Six credit hours in courses chosen from the Science List below.”

– University Calendar

Do I have to take math?

Only majors in computer science, economics and psychology require mathematics courses although it is also strongly recommended that students majoring in geography complete Math 1000. 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

“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.” – University Calendar

“Social Sciences Requirement. 12 credit hours in courses in at least two disciplines chosen from the Social Sciences List below.” – University Calendar

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 • Archaeology • Economics • Folklore • Geography (non-lab courses only) • History • Law and Society • Linguistics • Police Studies • Political Science • Sociology • Environmental Studies 1000, 2000 at Sir Wilfred Grenfell College 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classics • Communications Studies • English • French • German • History • Italian • Medieval Studies 2000 • Philosophy • Religious Studies • Russian • Spanish • Women’s Studies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History

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.

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 Undergraduate Registration Procedures document issued online every semester. The letter R indicates that a course section is designated as a research/writing course. A list of research/writing courses (as well as a list of courses in a second language) is also found in this document, on the last page before the actual course listings begin.

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 nine must be chosen from the Faculties of Arts, Science or Business, or in music history or music theory.
- The remaining five 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, Human Kinetics and Recreation, 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
- Two research/writing courses
- 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

QUESTIONS?

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