

FAQ from Q&A Sessions

The [COVID-19 FAQs](#) will be updated regularly by the University as September approaches, so please check this page often.

We strongly recommend that you look at the information for new students, including Orientation information and activities, found at the Student Success Centre:

<http://www.concordia.ca/students/success/new.html>

Can I still contact faculty and staff?

Yes, although campus is closed, the faculty and staff are continuing to work remotely. Click on “Contact us” on our [Political Science webpage](#) to see a list of our faculty and staff members.

Can I study from abroad?

Concordia is in discussions with the Quebec Ministry of Education and Higher Education to find a solution that will allow you to continue your studies virtually in the fall term, from wherever you reside. Please keep up-to-date with [these FAQs](#) to get the latest news on these developments.

How do I plan my career/decide now?

In your first year of the program you should take the core 200-level courses (two per semester) and you should also be taking electives and testing the waters in other programs that interest you (minors such as Law and Society or Human Rights, or majors such as Sociology, Economics, or Communications). For POLI courses that are full, you should put your name on the waitlist (you can be on 2 waitlists at a time). After you have had a chance to try some courses, attend Departmental career panels as well as FutureReady webinars offered by the Student Success Centre (<http://www.concordia.ca/students/success/future-ready.html>).

How do I make my schedule?

You should register for the whole year now for maximum choice.

There are “how-to” guides for course registration listed [here](#) and [here](#).

How many courses do I take now?

A Full-time student should register for 12 or 15 credits per term (Fall, /2, and Winter, /4).

A Part-time student should register for 9 credits or less per term.

A course is worth 3 credits unless it is a course that extends over fall and winter (/3). In this case the course would be worth 6 credits. Political Science does not have any 6 credit courses.

The number of courses you choose to take depends on if you are working while studying and other commitments you may have in your life, including extracurricular activities like sports, clubs, and associations. Most students take 9 courses (27 credits) a year, typically 4 courses in one semester and 5

courses in the next. Many students will also take an additional course or two during the summer, but summer courses are intensive, 6-week classes and there are many fewer courses offered during the summer (/1 semester).

How do I transfer credits?

If you have already requested credits to be transferred with your admission application, please refer to your admission letter for instructions on how to transfer credits. There is more information on the Admissions [website](#) as well.

How will fall be organized?

As of May 14, the University announced that fall courses will be delivered mainly online. All our Political Science courses will be conducted through a website called Moodle. You can access Moodle through the myConcordia portal using your netname and password. Your professor will set up virtual office hours. Although many lecture classes will be recorded, most classes require attendance and participation as part of the course grade. We strongly encourage you to attend all of your classes to have the opportunity to interact with the professor and your peers and to get the most out of your education.

How come I cannot register for courses that are listed as open?

You may try to enroll into a course that appears to have available seats but receive the error message, *"You are unable to enroll in this class at this time. Available seats are reserved for students in specific programs and according to the rules defined by the department, you do not meet these criteria. For Fine Arts, Arts & Science or Gina Cody School of Engineering & Computer Science courses, please consult the department offering this course to obtain permission to register, or select another class."* This means that all of the seats reserved for students in your program (POLI) are full. If this happens, you will need to enroll on the waitlist and wait until a seat for which you are eligible opens up. This is true even if are a POLI major.

For example, POLI 388/2/A has 45 seats reserved for POLI students, 10 seats reserved for students with a minor in Human Rights, and 5 seats reserved for students in Law and Society. All 45 seats for POLI students could be taken with the 5 seats that are left for Law and Society open, therefore POLI students would not be able to register at this time and would need to get on the waitlist. In the week or two before the semester begins, any open seats that were reserved for other minors or programs will be opened to the waitlist.

What are electives? Where can I find a list of electives?

As an Arts and Science student you are required to successfully complete a minimum of 24 credits outside of your department and outside of the social sciences ([Graduation requirements in Section 31.003, Degree requirements, of the current university calendar](#)). These are known as electives.

For a list of electives, click [here](#).

Can I defer admission?

Concordia has decided that if you do not want to start your degree with remote learning, you may defer your admission. You have until August 2020 to make your decision. From July 1 to August 15 you can

email your Admissions Officer, include your student ID number and indicate whether you want to begin your program in January 2021 or September 2021.

What's the minimum GPA to remain in the Honours program?

You must maintain a GPA of 3.5 to remain in the Honours program. For other questions about our Honours Program, please see the [Department website](#) or email polisci.UPD@concordia.ca

What is the advisement report? Does it work?

The advisement report in SIS is intended to help you check to make sure you have taken all of the courses necessary to complete your degree. Unfortunately, you cannot rely on the advisement report as it is faulty. (We are working to fix this.) Instead, use the [Degree Requirements Form](#) listed on our website.

What can I do with my degree?

There are a large number of career options open to BAs in Political Science and the department runs several workshops each year on just this topic. Many of our students go on to law school, graduate school in public policy or public administration, or even to do PhDs. Many students end up working as consultants or advisors in corporations (regulatory compliance, social corporate responsibility), public offices (at the municipal, provincial, or federal level), for candidates running for office, or working for non-profit organizations. Alums from our department can be found running their own businesses (and helping to run countries) around the world.

Can I change my courses? Up until when?

The last day to add or drop a course for the fall term without penalty is September 21st, 2020.

After September 21st, you can discontinue a course (DISC) until November 9th. There are no reimbursements for DISC courses and the DISC notation will appear on your transcript.

Fall – Fall/Winter – Winter 2020-2021

STANDARD Term Dates and Deadlines — Fall 2020 (2202) — Fall/Winter 2020-21 (2203) — Winter Terms 2021 (2204)

Fall 2020 (2202), Fall/Winter 2020-21 (2203) and Winter 2021 (2204) terms

All dates are applicable to Undergraduate and Graduate Courses

Term	Term Dates (Excluding make-up day)	Final Examination Dates	Registration*	Dropping a Course*	
			Last day to add or swap courses in this term	DNE Full refund	DISC Academic withdrawal
Fall (Session 13W)	Sept. 8 – Dec. 7	Dec. 9 – Dec. 23	September 21, 2020**	September 21, 2020	November 9, 2020
Fall/Winter (Session 26W)	Sept. 8 – April 13	April 17 – May 2	September 21, 2020**	September 21, 2020	March 22, 2021
Winter (Session 13W)	Jan. 6 – April 13	April 17 – May 2	January 19, 2021**	January 19, 2021	March 22, 2021

** a **\$75 late registration fee** will be charged for registration of Fall (2202) or Fall/Winter (2203) courses made beginning September 3 or Winter (2204) courses made beginning January 6 if not already registered for any Fall (2202) or Winter (2204) courses.

*For a listing of fall and winter courses held outside the standard term dates, please see the **non-standard** dates and deadlines below.

<http://www.concordia.ca/students/registration/term-dates-deadlines.html>

Check the [Undergraduate Calendar](#) and the website for other important academic dates.

How do I drop courses? Will it show on my transcript?

There are instructions [here](#) on how to drop a course. If you drop the course before September 21, it will not appear on your transcript. If you drop within the DISC deadline, a DISC notation will appear on your transcript next to the course.

What about my residence application?

Concordia has made the decision to suspend residence operations for the 2020/21 academic year. If you applied for housing, the University will be processing refunds for the application fee.

Please visit the [student housing website](#) for more information about housing. Information about alternative housing options will be posted soon.

Why am I in a 120 credit program? How long will it take to complete?

Depending on your academic background, the average undergraduate program at Concordia takes three or four years to complete.

[This table](#) shows the time required to complete an undergraduate program at Concordia. Estimates are based on [you taking a full course load](#).

Students from outside of Quebec are required to take an additional 30 credits, making their program 120 credits long instead of 90 credits. This is because Quebec CEGEP graduates are required to take 13

years of study before starting university while high school graduates outside of Quebec only complete 12 years of study before university.

How do I complete my ESL requirement?

Concordia is now accepting the online Duolingo English Test to meet our proof of [English Language Proficiency](#). Please click the link for more information.

What are exemptions (exempted courses)?

Concordia will grant you an exemption when you successfully complete a specific course and meet an indicated minimum grade for the course. An exemption does not count as credit towards a degree, so it will not decrease the number of courses you need to complete your degree, but it will let you skip ahead to a more advanced course. Courses for which Concordia gives you an exemption may not be taken for credit. If you received an exemption for a course required for your program, you must take another course in the same department to be determined in consultation with a departmental advisor.

How do I change my major? How do I add a minor?

First, you must complete 24 credits at Concordia and have a GPA of at least 2.0 to request a concentration change (change of major or addition/change of a minor). When you have this, you will fill out the [change of concentration form](#) found on our website and submit it to politicalscience.advising@concordia.ca

How do I check my fees?

Please note that the University has extended the deadline to pay tuition fees. Please read more about it [here](#).

A Student's Account balance is available on the [Student Portal](#) (under the MyConcordia Menu » Student Accounts Services » Student's Account). Payment deadline dates are available under the [Fee Payment Deadlines](#) heading and on the Student's Account.