Although this academic year might be different, Western University is committed to a thriving campus. We encourage you to check out the Digital Student Experience website to manage your academics and well-being. Additionally, the following link provides available resources to support students on and off campus: https://www.uwo.ca/health/.

1. Technical Requirements:

- Stable internet connection
- Laptop or computer
- Working microphone
- Working webcam

2. Important Dates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classes Begin</th>
<th>Reading Week</th>
<th>Classes End</th>
<th>Study day(s)</th>
<th>Exam Period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 8</td>
<td>November 1–7</td>
<td>December 8</td>
<td>December 9</td>
<td>December 10–21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* November 30, 2021: Last day to drop a full course without academic penalty

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classes Resume</th>
<th>Reading Week</th>
<th>Classes End</th>
<th>Study day(s)</th>
<th>Exam Period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 3</td>
<td>February 19–27</td>
<td>April 1</td>
<td>April 2/3</td>
<td>April 4–30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. Contact Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Course Coordinators</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Ken Yeung</td>
<td>4483E (Biochemistry)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kyeung@uwo.ca">kyeung@uwo.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4485E (Clinical Biochemistry)</td>
<td>Room 374, Medical Sciences Building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4486E (Biochemistry and Cancer Biology)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4500E (Chemical Biology)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Rodney DeKoter</td>
<td>4970E (Microbiology &amp; Immunology)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rdekoter@uwo.ca">rdekoter@uwo.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Room 3007K, Dental Sciences Building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Silvia Penuela</td>
<td>4480E (Biochemistry &amp; Cell Biology)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:spenuela@uwo.ca">spenuela@uwo.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Room 426, Medical Sciences Building</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. Course Description and Design

**Course Description:**
The project course is the core of our honours modules. As a course, it is first and foremost a guided educational program in which students work on an independent research project under the mentorship of a faculty supervisor and other lab members. The goal of the course is to give students the opportunity to participate in science, rather than simply consume it.

**Extra Information:** 15 hours per week  
**Course Weight:** 1.5 credits

**Requisites:**
Access to the above thesis courses is restricted to students enrolled in one of the Honours Modules offered by the participating departments. Each module has its own prerequisites and requirements. The eligibility of each student is therefore determined prior to enrolment. Nevertheless, meeting the prerequisites and requirements of the thesis course remains the responsibility of the student.

**Senate regulation regarding the student’s responsibility for prerequisites:**
Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

**Delivery mode:**
This course will have in person components and online components. Virtual sessions will be a combination of synchronous (live) and asynchronous (recorded). Students will be expected to complete work prior to attending sessions. Timetabled sessions could be used for lectures, tutorials, discussions, groupwork, etc. Below are details about the sessions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Attendance required</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In person</td>
<td>M/T/W/Th/F</td>
<td>3 hours</td>
<td>Daily *</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In person</td>
<td>(See schedule)</td>
<td>variable</td>
<td>selected sessions **</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1) General course information session</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2) Fall research project presentation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3) December written progress report</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4) Winter project outline report</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5) Final written project report</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6) Spring final research presentation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virtual synchronous, or in person</td>
<td>(See schedule)</td>
<td>variable</td>
<td>selected sessions **</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1) Interviews to match with supervisor</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2) Laboratory safety training</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Lab hours are expected to be scheduled in collaboration between the student and faculty supervisor.  
** A schedule will be posted.  
*** Virtual synchronous sessions will be recorded for later viewing.
All course material will be posted to OWL: [http://owl.uwo.ca](http://owl.uwo.ca). Any changes will be indicated on the OWL site and discussed with the class. Students are responsible for checking OWL at regular intervals.

If students need assistance, they can seek support on the [OWL Help page](http://owl.uwo.ca). Alternatively, they can contact the Western Technology Services Helpdesk. They can be contacted by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.

[Google Chrome](https://www.google.com/chrome) or [Mozilla Firefox](https://www.mozilla.org/firefox) are the preferred browsers to optimally use OWL; update your browsers frequently. Students interested in evaluating their internet speed, please click [here](https://www.speedtest.net).

**NOTE:** In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates moving away from face-to-face interaction, all remaining course content will be delivered entirely online, either synchronously (i.e., at times indicates in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). Guidelines for working in person in laboratories may change. The grading scheme will not change. Any remaining assessments will also be conducted online at the discretion of the instructor.

5. **Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Apply the scientific process to answer real research questions.
- Communicate science through oral presentations and written reports.

6. **Course Organization**

The course is jointly administered by the Departments of Microbiology & Immunology, Biochemistry, and Anatomy & Cell Biology. Together we organize the placements, scheduling, and seminars. Students in any of these programs can select a supervisor in any of these Departments.

Early September is devoted to required safety and other training courses that must be completed before starting in the lab. Project matching must also be completed during this time. Projects begin typically by the third week of September (see schedule).

Students will give their first oral presentation in mid-October (see schedule). This is intended to give students the opportunity to introduce the background and rational to their project and outline the methods that they will use to answer their research question(s). These presentations are graded by faculty, other members of the department, and peers.

Final written reports are typically due at the end of March/early April (see schedule). These will be graded by at least two faculty members from within the given department. Final oral presentations will occur in early April and will again be graded by faculty, other members of the department, and peers.

**Required Online Courses:**

There are several online courses that do not contribute to your grade in the project course but are absolutely required to receive a grade. Upload your certificates of completion for each module on the OWL assignment page by the required date. You will not be able to continue your project past this date until all certificates are uploaded. Any late certificates will affect your first term performance review marks.

i) **Safety Courses:**

These six safety courses are available online: [https://www.uwo.ca/hr/learning/required/index.html](https://www.uwo.ca/hr/learning/required/index.html).
Certificates showing completion for all of the following courses must be submitted to your supervisor prior to starting any work in the lab.

- Worker Health and Safety Awareness Training
- WHMIS - Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System
- Safe Campus Community
- Accessibility in Service
- Laboratory Safety & Hazardous Waste Management
- Biosafety

ii) **Responsible Conduct of Research Modules:**
These five courses are available through the CITI program made available by Western Research. You may find instructions under “Assignments” on the course OWL site. You must complete the following modules and associated quiz.

- Research Misconduct (ID 14367)
- Data Acquisition and Management (ID 14355)
- Writing with Integrity (ID 16285)
- Conflicts of Interest in Research (ID 14381)
- Animal Care and Use (ID 14383)

7. **Choosing your Project and Supervisor**
The research projects undertaken by honours students can take very different forms, depending on the lab and type of research. The guiding principle is that students must perform a project designed to address a specific research question or questions. Discuss this with your supervisor.

Prior to September 1 you may approach faculty that you are interested in working with about potential projects in their research group. If you do find a supervisor prior to the beginning of the term, send an email confirming your match to the coordinator for your course (see above) with the details of your match. Copy your supervisor on this email.

By the middle of the summer, you will be given access to an OWL site with descriptions of available projects to help you with your search. Keep checking the OWL site as new projects will be loaded throughout the summer. Keep in mind that it is not required that you find a supervisor prior to the beginning of the term and projects will still be available. Project pre-matching ends September 1.

For those students who did not arrange for a supervisor prior to September, the second week of the term (see schedule) will be dedicated to interviews to help you find a match. Expect to interview with no more than 3 potential supervisors, after which you will submit your ranked preferences. Faculty will do the same. The course coordinators will do our best to match students with their choice of project based on these rankings.

**NOTE:** Students may not carry out a Work Study placement in the same lab as they are doing their thesis project, as these are two separate programs.

**Expectations in the Lab:**
Projects begin during the third week of September (see schedule). Students are expected to devote a minimum of 15 hours per week on their project. The actual hours spent in the lab should be discussed with your supervisor. You should discuss expectations with your supervisor. Most labs will have group meetings that you should plan to attend. The quality of your experience in this course is highly dependent on the efforts that you put in.
**NOTE:** Safety regulations prohibit anyone from working alone in a research laboratory. Therefore, undergraduate research students are only permitted to work in the lab under the supervision of a senior lab member.

**NOTE:** Labs can be hazardous places. Ask what the hazards are and know how to handle them safely. Basics will be covered in the mandatory courses at the beginning of September, but you should also receive lab-specific training when you start your project.

**Recommended Reading:** *At the Bench: A Laboratory Navigator, Updated Edition* by Kathy Barker. In particular, Chapters 1-6.

## 8. Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>ROOM</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2021-9-1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>DEADLINE FOR RESEARCH PROJECT PRE-MATCHING</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021-9-10</td>
<td>2:00-4:00 pm</td>
<td>MSB 384</td>
<td>General course information – Required for all students.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021-9-11</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>STUDENT/FACULTY INTERVIEWS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021-9-17</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>DEADLINE TO SUBMIT PROJECT SUPERVISOR CHOICES (via email to <a href="mailto:rdeko@uwo.ca">rdeko@uwo.ca</a>) by 3:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021-9-18</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Deadline to complete all Lab Safety Training courses on OWL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021-9-20</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>RESEARCH PROJECTS START – Safety training must be complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021-9-27</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Deadline to complete Research Integrity Training and submit certificates on OWL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021-10-22</td>
<td>1:00-5:30 pm</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>First Research Project Presentations (15 min/each, 10 minutes + 5 minutes for questions)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021-12-31</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>DEADLINE for December report (Submit via OWL)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022-2-4</td>
<td>2:00-4:00 pm</td>
<td>MSB 384</td>
<td>Guidelines for final report writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022-2-21 to 2022-2-25</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Spring Reading Week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022-2-28</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>PROJECT OUTLINE DUE TO SUPERVISOR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022-3-28</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>DEADLINE TO Submit PROJECT REPORTS (Submit via OWL)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
9. Evaluation

Below is the evaluation breakdown for the course. Any deviations will be communicated.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Oral Presentation</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Written Report</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Written Report</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Oral Presentation</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Performance Evaluation</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

☑ All assignments are due at 11:55 pm EST unless otherwise specified
☑ Rubrics will be used to evaluate assessments and will be posted with the instructions
☑ After an assessment is returned, students should wait 24 hours to digest feedback before contacting their evaluator; to ensure a timely response, reach out within 7 days

Click [here](#) for a detailed and comprehensive set of policies and regulations concerning examinations and grading. The table below outlines the University-wide grade descriptors.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>80-89</td>
<td>Superior work which is clearly above average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>70-79</td>
<td>Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>60-69</td>
<td>Competent work, meeting requirements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>50-59</td>
<td>Fair work, minimally acceptable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>below 50</td>
<td>Fail</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Information about late or missed evaluations:**

☑ Late assessments with self-reported absences or accommodation should be submitted within 24 hours of the end of the self-report or accommodation (e.g., due Fri 11:55 pm; self-report covers Fri/Sat; new deadline is Sun by 11:55 pm OR 24 hours after the end of the accommodation period)

---

**First Oral Presentation:** 8% of final grade

The first oral presentation will occur early on in your project (see schedule). It should be no longer than 10 min, followed by 5 min for questions (15 minutes total). Presentations that go over this time will be cut off. Students should present the research question(s) that their proposal will address, background information and preliminary results, and outline the methods that will be used. Slides should be prepared in PowerPoint or similar. Students should discuss details of content and form with their supervisor prior to preparing their presentations. For 2021-2022, oral presentations are expected to take place in person but may be moved to Zoom if required. Sessions will be held concurrently, grouped by field,
attended by Faculty and other department members. Project students must attend the entire session. Attendees will grade presentations.

**First Written Report:**  10% of final grade (including 6% performance evaluation)
A written introduction is due by the end of December (see Schedule) and will be submitted via the OWL HSP Project site. It should be up to 3 pages long (double spaced), plus references. It should provide an introduction to your project, state your research questions, and summarize your proposed experimental approach. This introduction (worth 4%) and your progress to date in the lab (worth 6%) will contribute to your December evaluation by your supervisor.

**Final Written Report:**  50% of Final Grade
Final reports are due at the end of March/early April (see schedule for exact date) and will be submitted via the OWL HSP project site. Late reports will lose 10% per day up to 3 days. Reports will not be accepted if more than 3 days late.

Reports are to be written in the style of a research paper with an Abstract, Introduction, Methods, Results, and Discussion sections. Figures and legends should be prepared as if for publication and appended to the end. References should be handled appropriately. Specifics of content and style should be discussed with your supervisor.

Reports should not be longer than 20 pages, double-spaced, not including abstract, figures, and references.

An outline of your thesis is due to your supervisor after winter term reading week (see schedule). Your supervisor can give you general feedback and guidance at this time, but can't re-write your paper for you. It is also acceptable to get feedback from other colleagues in the lab.

After submission, your paper will be marked by at least two faculty that are not your supervisor, but that are familiar with the subject.

**NOTE:** A 1-page form (provided on OWL) stating the project start date and outlining your contribution to the presented research must be uploaded as a separate document to the OWL site.

**NOTE:** We will have a lecture specifically on writing your report early in the winter semester (see Schedule).

**Second Oral Presentation:**  12% final grade
The final oral presentation will occur the week after the written report is due (see schedule). It should be no longer than 15 min, followed by 5 min for questions (20 minutes total). Presentations that go over this time will be cut off. Students should present an introduction to their project, rationale, research question(s), and results from the year. Slides should be prepared in PowerPoint or similar. Students should discuss details of content and form with their supervisor prior to preparing their presentations.

Sessions will be held concurrently, grouped by field, attended by Faculty and other department members. Project students must attend the entire session.

**Final Performance Evaluation:**  20% final grade
At the end of the course, your supervisor will evaluate your overall performance in the lab. This will be based on your commitment, effort, initiative, overall understanding of the project and intellectual contribution and performance. This will, in part, be based on the THESIS OUTLINE that you submit to your supervisor after Reading Week.
**Final Note on Evaluation:**
Keep in mind that different projects can have very different types of outcomes. Negative results are common, especially in short time frames such as this course. Sometimes experiments just don’t work. The excitement of the projects that you are undertaking is that you and your supervisor don’t know what the outcome will be, and therefore evaluations are not based necessarily on how much data is produced. All faculty are experienced in what kind of effort is required for any given type of project and this will be taken into consideration at all levels of evaluation.

If problems arise in your project or lab, discuss it first with your supervisor. If this does not resolve the issue, contact your course coordinator.

10. **Communication:**

   - All course-related announcements and communication will be made using the “HSP Project Site 2021” OWL site
   - Grades will be communicated by course-specific OWL sites
   - Students should contact their instructor(s) and teaching assistant(s) using email
   - Emails will be monitored daily; students will receive a response in 24 – 48 hours
   - Students should post all course-related queries on the discussion forum so that everyone can access the questions and responses

11. **Resources**

   - All resources will be posted in OWL
   - Additional resources will be provided by your research supervisor

12. **Professionalism & Privacy:**

    Western students are expected to follow the [Student Code of Conduct](#). Additionally, the following expectations and professional conduct apply to this course:

   - All course materials created by the instructor(s) are copyrighted and cannot be sold/shared
   - Recordings are not permitted (audio or video) without explicit permission
   - Permitted recordings are not to be distributed

13. **How to Be Successful in this Class:**

    Students enrolled in this class should understand the level of autonomy and self-discipline required to be successful.

    1. Invest in a planner or application to keep track of your courses. Populate all your deadlines at the start of the term and schedule time at the start of each week to get organized and manage your time.
    2. Make it a daily habit to log onto OWL to ensure you have seen everything posted to help you succeed in this class.
    3. Follow weekly checklists created on OWL or create your own to help you stay on track.
    4. Take notes as you go through the lesson material. Treat this course as you would a face-to-face course. Keeping handwritten notes or even notes on a regular Word document will help you learn more effectively than just reading or watching the videos.
    5. Connect with others. Try forming an online study group and try meeting on a weekly basis
for study and peer support.

6. Do not be afraid to ask questions. If you are struggling with a topic, check the online discussion boards or contact your instructor(s) and or teaching assistant(s).

7. Reward yourself for successes. It seems easier to motivate ourselves knowing that there is something waiting for us at the end of the task.

14. Western Academic Policies and Statements

Masking Guidelines
Students will be expected to wear triple layer, non-medical, paper masks at all times in the classroom as per University policy and public health directives. Students who are unable to wear a mask must seek formal accommodation through Western Accessible Education, and present medical documentation. Students are not permitted to eat or drink while in class to ensure masks stay in place. Students will be able to eat and drink outside of the classroom during scheduled breaks. Students unwilling to wear a mask as stipulated by Western policy and public health directives will be referred to the Dean, and such actions will be considered a violation of the student Code of Conduct.

Course Absences due to Daily COVID Screening Questionnaire
Missed assessments (e.g., presentations, essays, quizzes, tests, midterms, etc.) require formal academic considerations (typically self-reported absences and/or academic counselling). Methods for dealing with missed work and course content are at the discretion of the instructor(s). Students should be aware that some learning outcomes cannot be easily made up and may need to be completed in a subsequent year. Your instructor will provide you with further information as to how this applies within this course. Students who demonstrate a pattern of routinely missing coursework due to self-reported COVID symptoms, and therefore do not demonstrate mastery of the learning outcomes of the course, will not receive credit for the course.

Contingency plan for an in-person class pivoting to 100% online learning
In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the course delivery moving away from face-to-face interaction, all remaining course content will be delivered entirely online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will not change. Any remaining assessments will also be conducted online as determined by the course instructor. In the event that online learning is required, a stable v1 (2021.09.03)

Absence from Course Commitments

Policy on Academic Consideration for Student Absences

If you are unable to meet a course requirement due to illness or other serious circumstances, you must seek approval for the absence as soon as possible. Approval can be granted either through a self-reported absence or via the Academic Counselling unit. Students have two self-reports to use throughout the academic year; absence from course commitments including tests, quizzes, presentations, labs, and assignments that are worth 30% or less can be self-reported. Self-reported absences cover a student for 48 hours (yesterday + today or today + tomorrow). Your instructor will receive notification of your consideration; however, you should contact your instructor immediately regarding your absence. Students are expected to submit missed work within 24 hours of the end of the 48-hour period. Please review details of the university's policy on academic consideration for student absences.

If you have used both their self-reported absences or will miss more than 48 hours of course requirements, a Student Medical Certificate (SMC) should be signed by a licensed medical or mental health practitioner and you should contact academic counselling.
Sciences and Basic Medical Sciences Academic Counselling Help Portal is located at https://www.uwo.ca/sci/counselling/

Accommodation for Religious Holidays

The policy on Accommodation for Religious Holidays can be viewed [here](https://www.uwo.ca/sci/counselling/).

Special Examinations

A Special Examination is any examination other than the regular examination, and it may be offered only with the permission of the Dean of the Faculty in which the student is registered, in consultation with the instructor and Department Chair. Permission to write a Special Examination may be given on the basis of compassionate or medical grounds with appropriate supporting documents. To provide an opportunity for students to recover from the circumstances resulting in a Special Examination, the University has implemented Special Examinations dates. These dates as well as other important information about examinations and academic standing can be found [here](https://www.uwo.ca/sci/counselling/).

Academic Offenses

“Scholastic offences are taken seriously, and students are directed [here](https://www.uwo.ca/sci/counselling/) to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence.

Accessibility Statement

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Accessible Education (AE) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation or review [The policy on Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](https://www.uwo.ca/sci/counselling/).
Correspondence Statement

The centrally administered e-mail account provided to students will be considered the individual’s official university e-mail address. It is the responsibility of the account holder to ensure that e-mail received from the University at his/her official university address is attended to in a timely manner. You can read about the privacy and security of the UWO email accounts here.

Discovery Credit Statement

Students are permitted to designate up to 1.0 Discovery Credit course (or equivalent) for pass/fail grading that can be counted toward the overall course credits required for their degree program. The details of this policy and the deadlines can be found here.

Essay Course Guidelines

The guidelines for the minimum written assignments refer to the cumulative amount of written work in a course but excludes written work in examinations. You can read about essay course guidelines here.

An essay course must normally involve total written assignments (essays or other appropriate prose composition, excluding examinations) as follows:

- Full course (1000 to 1999): at least 3000 words
- Half course (1000 to 1999): at least 1500 words
- Full course (2000 and above): at least 5000 words
- Half course (2000 and above): at least 2500 words

The structure of the essay course must be such that in order to pass the course, the student must exhibit some minimal level of competence in essay writing and the appropriate level of knowledge of the content of the course.

Turnitin and other similarity review software

All assignments will be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. Students will be able to view their results before the final submission. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between Western University and Turnitin.com.

15. BMSUE Academic Policies and Statements

Cell Phone and Electronic Device Policy (for in-person tests and exams)

The Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry is committed to ensuring that testing and evaluation are undertaken fairly across all our departments and programs. For all tests and exams, it is the policy of the School that any electronic devices, i.e., cell phones, tablets, cameras, or iPod are strictly prohibited. These devices MUST be left either at home or with the student’s bag/jacket at the front of the room and MUST NOT be at the test/exam desk or in the individual’s pocket. Any student found with one of these prohibited devices will receive a grade of zero on the test or exam. Non-programmable calculators are only allowed when indicated by the instructor. The program is not responsible for stolen/lost or broken devices.

Copyright and Audio/Video Recording Statement

Course material produced by faculty is copyrighted and to reproduce this material for any purposes other than your own educational use contravenes Canadian Copyright Laws. You must always ask permission to record another individual and you should never share or distribute recordings.
Rounding of Marks Statement

Across the Basic Medical Sciences Undergraduate Education programs, we strive to maintain high standards that reflect the effort that both students and faculty put into the teaching and learning experience during this course. All students will be treated equally and evaluated based only on their actual achievement. Final grades on this course, irrespective of the number of decimal places used in marking individual assignments and tests, will be calculated to one decimal place and rounded to the nearest integer, e.g., 74.4 becomes 74, and 74.5 becomes 75. Marks WILL NOT be bumped to the next grade or GPA, e.g. a 79 will NOT be bumped up to an 80, an 84 WILL NOT be bumped up to an 85, etc. The mark attained is the mark you achieved, and the mark assigned; requests for mark “bumping” will be denied.

16. Support Services

The following links provide information about support services at Western University.

- Academic Counselling (Science and Basic Medical Sciences)
- Appeal Procedures
- Registrarial Services
- Student Development Services
- Student Health Services