

Hello and Welcome to Year 4 Honors Specialization IMS!

I wanted to take the time to provide you with some updates and information for the 2020-2021 academic year. Please read the messages below from Drs. Brad Urquhart and Nicole Campbell regarding the BMSc program and HSP IMS program respectively.

On behalf of the Basic Medical Sciences Undergraduate Education Committee, it is a pleasure to welcome you to your 4th year Honours Specialization program! We commend your perseverance in succeeding through a very difficult March and April as we all transitioned to an online environment in a very short time. As you have heard from President Shepard's message, there will also be some challenges that we all have to navigate in the 2020-21 academic year. Western has adopted a hybrid model for courses this year where many classes will be delivered online but some are planned to go forward with face-to-face experiences. While we would prefer to have campus back to full capacity, we have to respect public health guidelines and the safety of our students is the primary concern.

I wanted to update you on a few things:

- Your professors continue to work very hard to plan for the 2020-21 year as we all want you to have a great 4th year experience. I am amazed by their dedication.
- When considering the restrictions to the capacity of classrooms, labs and campus in general, it was important for our programs to ensure the best possible experience for our 4th year honours students. We are very happy to let you know that the majority of your capstone courses (4th year thesis projects, 4th year laboratory/capstone courses) are planning to have a face-to-face experience combined with some online modules. This means that for those choosing lab-based research projects, we expect you will be able to get some time in the lab over the course of the year. There may also be opportunities for virtual projects within HSP and some modules will run fully online.
- We are making efforts to make course selection and communication of expectations clear. Condensed course outlines are being created to help communicate what the expectations are for courses this year (face-to-face, virtual synchronous, virtual asynchronous, etc.). This information will be available soon on the webpage for [BMSc Course and Module Updates](#) and you will receive another e-mail as soon as the information is posted.

I hope you have a chance to relax a bit this summer as COVID-19 restrictions begin to lift. Please see a specific welcome to your HSP program below and we look forward to welcoming you back to Western in September.

Brad Urquhart, PhD
Associate Dean,
Basic Medical Sciences Undergraduate Education

Hello everyone!

I have [prepared a video \(~15 mins\)](#) that highlights some relevant information for the upcoming year. I also need everyone to acknowledge that they have reviewed the expectations in this email for the 2020-2021 academic year by completing this [1-minute survey](#) by Friday, June 19th. Below is information about course registration.

Pay attention to your course registration date and time and consider the following:

- 4900F/G and 4930F/G have been updated to Z course designations; they are each a half credit
- 4900Z + 4930Z: you must register for them in the same transaction since each is a corequisite of the other
- You need to register for 2.0 4000-level basic medical science courses from at least 2 disciplines (e.g. 0.5 Phys + 1.5 Biochem) in addition to Medical Sciences 4900Z and 4930Z
- Review the [IMS website](#)—specifically, the Plan Your Courses and Course Registration tabs under the Honours Specialization header—use the worksheet to help check your module/degree requirements
- If you register for more than five 4000-level basic medical science courses, we will remove you from 4000-level courses, at our discretion
- Keep an eye on spots throughout the summer because there will be movement

In IMS, we believe strongly in community and working together to thrive. Therefore, we have created a [IMS FB group](#) that we encourage you all to join now. We will be holding live sessions throughout the summer to answer your questions and we will post tips about how to prepare to be successful for the upcoming year. I look forward to getting to know you all next year.

Nicole Campbell, PhD MEd

Assistant Professor
Schulich Teaching Fellow
Department Counsellor
Interdisciplinary Medical Sciences
Western University
519-661-2111 x 82773