

**Neuroscience**  
**Neuroscience 4000E Honours Thesis**  
Course Syllabus for Fall 2024/Winter 2025



Western University is committed to a **thriving campus**; therefore, your health and wellness matter to us! The following link provides information about the resources available on and off campus to support students: <https://www.uwo.ca/health/> Your course coordinator can also **guide you** to resources and/or services should you need them.

**1. Technical Requirements:**



Stable internet connection



Laptop or computer

**2. Important Dates:**



Classes Begin	Reading Week	Classes End	Study day(s)	Exam Period
September 5	October 12–20	December 6	December 7–8	December 9–22

September 30, 2024, is National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and is a non-instructional day  
December 2, 2024: Last day to withdraw from a full course without academic penalty

Classes Resume	Reading Week	Classes End	Study day(s)	Exam Period
January 6	February 15–23	April 4	April 5–6	April 7–30

**3. Contact Information**

Course Coordinator	Contact Information
Jessica Grah	jgrahn@uwo.ca

Instructor(s) or Teaching Assistant(s)	Contact Information
Jessica Grah (Course Instructor)	jgrahn@uwo.ca
Maryum Khan (Teaching Assistant)	mkhan696@uwo.ca
Chung Yan Isis So (Teaching Assistant)	cso2026@meds.uwo.ca

#### 4. Course Description and Design

**Delivery Mode:** in-person (subject to change, thesis research may be in-person, blended, or virtual)

An independent laboratory project in Neuroscience emphasizing experimental design, instrumentation, data collection and analysis, and communication of experimental results by oral, poster and written presentations. Topics covered in seminar time include animal and human research ethics and institutional approval of animal and human experimentation, laboratory safety, and scientific communication skills.

**Prerequisite(s):** Neuroscience 3000F/G with a minimum mark of 75%; one of Biology 2244A/B, Statistical Sciences 2244A/B or Psychology 2810; Pharmacology 3620; Physiology 3140A; one of Medical Sciences 3900F/G/Z, Communication Sciences and Disorders 3317A/B, Psychology 3996F or Psychology 3997G; and registration in Year 4 of an Honours Specialization in Neuroscience.

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.

#### Timetabled Sessions

Component	Date(s)	Time
Lecture	Friday	1:30-4:30PM

- ☒ Attendance at sessions is required
- ☒ A recording may be provided of the sessions
- ☒ Closed captioning will be provided on audio or video recordings

All course material will be posted to OWL: <https://westernu.brightspace.com/d2l/login>. Any changes will be indicated on the OWL site and discussed with the class.

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

Current versions of all popular browsers (e.g., Safari, Chrome, Edge, Firefox) are supported with OWL Brightspace; what is most important is that you update your browser frequently to ensure it is current. All JavaScript and cookies should be enabled.

**Extra Information:** Minimum 15 hours per week, 1.5 credit course. Neuroscience 4000E is restricted to students in Year 4 of the Honors Specialization in Neuroscience.

## 5. Learning Outcomes

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

- Articulate the current state of knowledge, key concepts and main research themes and issues in the major content domain(s) relevant to your honors psychology thesis research project.
- Access, interpret and critically evaluate research resources relevant to your thesis project.
- Formulate research hypotheses and/or questions to address the main topic of your honors thesis research and implement a research project to test
- Apply relevant statistical techniques and skills to the analysis and interpretation of the data for your honors thesis project.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of different methodological approaches to address the specific psychological questions and/or hypotheses that pertain to your honors thesis project
- Articulate how to deal with key ethical research principles and issues that are relevant to your honors psychology thesis research project
- Use evidence to support conclusions drawn from past research and thesis work
- Engage in scholarly discussion on topics relevant to your Honors thesis project
- Provide a creative/novel solution to the major research issues identified in your Honors thesis
- Communicate in writing accurately, clearly and logically, using the discourse of psychology
- Communicate orally accurately, clearly and logically, using the discourse of psychology
- Recognize the limits of your own knowledge regarding each aspect of your thesis project and how this might influence your analysis and interpretation of your findings in a broader context
- Work collaboratively with relevant others (e.g., thesis supervisor, other students and research personnel in supervisor's lab, thesis course coordinator and TAs) to complete your honors thesis project in an ethical and timely fashion that also demonstrates an appropriate level of effort and professionalism
- Show initiative and autonomy in executing each phase of your thesis project

## 6. Course Content and Schedule

### Fall Schedule

Week	Dates	Topic	Instructor
1	Sept 6	Course Introductions, Health and Safety and Research Ethics – In-Class	Grahn
3	Sept 20	Basics of Presentations – In-Class	Grahn
4	Sept 27	Basics of Thesis Writing – In-Class	Grahn
7	Oct 18	Reading Week	N/A
8	Oct 25	Background Presentations – In-Class	Grahn
9	Nov 1	Background Presentations – In-Class	Grahn
10	Nov 8	Background Presentations – In-Class	Grahn
12	Nov 22	Next steps: Graduate school and Industry	Grahn

## Winter Schedule

Week	Dates	Topic	Instructor
1	Jan 10	EDI-D in Research – In-Class	Grahn
5	Feb 7	Thesis Writing: Round 2 – In-Class	Grahn
7	Feb 21	Reading Week	N/A
9	Mar 7	Research Presentations – In-Class	Grahn
10	Mar 14	Research Presentations – In-Class	Grahn
11	Mar 21	Research Presentations – In-Class	Grahn

### Obtaining a Supervisor

It is the student's responsibility to locate a qualified supervisor for their thesis project. Full-time faculty members in the Western neuroscience community may serve as supervisors including members of the Departments of Physiology & Pharmacology, Psychology, Anatomy & Cell Biology, Biochemistry, Biology, Communication Sciences & Disorders, Kinesiology, Psychiatry, the Robarts Research Institute and the Centre for Brain and Mind (formerly Brain and Mind Institute). If you are unsure whether an individual can serve as a thesis supervisor, please check with the course coordinator.

**NOTE:** If a proposed project is unsuitable for the honors thesis, the Course Coordinator may require modifications or the development of an alternate project. Neuroscience 4000E can't be completed without a supervisor and suitable research project. If either of these conditions is not met, you will be removed from the course.

To help you in your search for a supervisor, [faculty research interests](#) and [faculty that have participated](#) in the Neuroscience 4000E course are listed on the Neuroscience [website](#). The list includes many, but not all, Western neuroscience researchers. Similar lists with descriptions of faculty research interests can be found on the web pages of the departments and institutes. Prepare carefully before you meet with a potential supervisor. You should be able to provide a general idea of your neuroscience interests and background. Familiarity with the potential supervisor's research interests is highly recommended.

**Meetings with your Supervisor (or Designate):** It is also highly recommended that you schedule a regular meeting time with your supervisor. Regular meetings (i.e. twice a month) ensure timely completion of the major phases of your thesis. A suggested timeline is provided:

- Confirm Thesis Supervisor and Thesis Topic Early September
- Complete All Mandatory Training Mid-September
- Determine Specific Research Question Late September
- Determine Experimental Approach Late September
- Draft of Background Presentation Early October
- Begin Data Collection Mid-October
- Draft of Thesis Abstract and Introduction Early/Mid-October
- Second Draft of Preliminary Thesis Mid-January
- Data Collection Completed Mid-February
- Data Analysis End February
- Draft of Research Presentation Early March
- Draft of Final Thesis to Supervisor for Review Mid-March

**NOTE.** This schedule is a general guide for structuring your time. Your thesis project may vary somewhat. Establish with your supervisor a timetable for completing each major phase of your thesis

(keeping in mind due dates for assignments). Some studies may require more time for research ethics approval.

Your supervisor (or designate) should be prepared to help you with most aspects of your thesis including scientific and ethical issues, research design, data analysis and interpretation, and thesis writing. During the initial phases of your project, your supervisor may also recommend readings on your thesis topic. Throughout the year, your supervisor should be prepared to provide you with feedback on written and oral assignments in the course.

As a student, you should recognize that there are many demands on your supervisor's time. You should therefore be well prepared for every meeting with your supervisor. As one specific example, you are expected to show initiative in searching for and being knowledgeable about the research literature in your thesis area. In order to receive feedback on written work, you should ensure that such work is submitted to your supervisor well in advance of the deadline for the assignment.

### Safety and Ethics Training

Students **MUST** successfully complete all appropriate safety and ethical training courses as outlined in the first lecture **BEFORE** commencing research. The courses must be completed, and certificates uploaded to OWL Drop Box. Failure to comply with university safety and ethics regulations will result in immediate suspension of the research project, notification of the appropriate governing bodies at Western and possible removal from the course.

## 7. Participation and Engagement

- ☒ Students are expected to participate and engage with content as much as possible (posting on the OWL forum, attending in-class lecture, asking questions at presentations, etc.)

## 8. Assessment and Evaluation

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

Assessment	Format	Weighting	Due Date	Flexibility
Background Presentation	In-Class	10%	Oct 25 <sup>th</sup> , Nov 1 <sup>st</sup> , Nov 8 <sup>th</sup>	Can trade with a classmate
Laboratory Mark I	Supervisor	10%	Nov 22 <sup>nd</sup>	N/A
Thesis Paper 1— Abstract and Intro.	Owl Assignment/Turnitin	10%	Nov 22 <sup>nd</sup>	72 hour no late penalty
Complete EDI-D module on OWL	Owl	Part of participation	Jan 6 <sup>th</sup>	72 hour no late penalty
Thesis Paper 2 — Abstract, Intro, M&M and Preliminary Results.	Owl Assignment/Turnitin	10%	Feb 24 <sup>th</sup> [Mon after Reading Week]	72 hour no late penalty
Research Presentation	In-Class	15%	Mar 7 <sup>th</sup> , 14 <sup>th</sup> , 21 <sup>st</sup>	Can trade with a classmate
Final Thesis	Owl Assignment/Turnitin	25%	Apr 4 <sup>th</sup>	72 hour no late penalty
Laboratory Mark II	Supervisor	15%	Apr 4 <sup>th</sup>	N/A
Attendance and Participation	Instructors	5%		Only one of three presentation days requires attendance

**Presentations:** Each student will deliver two 10-12 minute talks describing their research project. The first presentation is a background talk and will focus on the introduction, hypothesis and rationale of the project (**Fall Background Presentation**). This presentation is worth 10% of the final course grade and will be marked by the course coordinator and teaching assistants. The second talk is a research presentation and will describe the completed thesis work (**March Research Presentation**). The Research Presentation is worth 15% of the final grade and will be marked by the course coordinator and teaching assistants. A primer outlining key considerations for developing and delivering a good scientific presentation will be provided as a lecture (Thesis presentation lecture). Students are strongly encouraged to seek feedback on their presentations from their supervisor/laboratory members prior to delivering the talk to the class.

**Written Work:** The format and type of material that should be included in the written papers will be discussed (Thesis writing lecture). Please do not submit pdfs for the written assignments. Feedback is easier on non-pdf files. A preliminary written version of your thesis introduction and (mock) abstract is due **Nov 22<sup>nd</sup>** and will be graded by the course coordinator and teaching assistants. This paper is worth 10% of your final grade in the course. A second preliminary version of your thesis including abstract, introduction, materials and methods and (partial) results is due **Feb 24<sup>th</sup>**. At a minimum, it needs at least one results figure (even if only predicted or preliminary data) and one paragraph of results. This paper is worth 10% of your final grade in the course. The completed final thesis is due on **Apr. 4<sup>th</sup>** and is worth 25% of the final mark. Two neuroscience supervisors that have participated in the course will determine the grade for the final thesis.

**NOTE:** Written assignments uploaded through the OWL assignment tab will automatically be submitted to **Turnitin** to generate a similarity report. Students can view the Turnitin report and resubmit their assignments an unlimited number of times prior to the deadline.

**Thesis Format:** Latest version of any well-respected neuroscience journal, typically a preferred journal of the supervisor. Detailed formatting instructions, including citation format, can be found on the journal/publisher's website. In general, the thesis will include an Abstract, Introduction, Methods/Results, Discussion, Acknowledgements, and References, as well as illustrative Figures. Example theses can be found here: <https://www.jessicagrahn.com/past-honours-thesis-projects.html>. Ask your supervisor or others in your lab if they have examples from previous years.

**Laboratory Marks:** Laboratory grades will be provided by the supervisor and based on the student's level of enthusiasm and professionalism, active engagement and time spent on the project, maintaining proper laboratory records, learning the relevant literature for the research area, engaging in laboratory meetings etc.

A poor laboratory mark (<70%) and/or concerns about performance expressed by the supervisor will initiate one or more meetings with the course coordinator and/or others (i.e. thesis supervisor, academic counselling) at the discretion of the course coordinator. Failure to devote the minimum 15 hours/week to the research project may result in an 'F' in the course.

**Attendance and Participation:** Students are required to attend the 1st lecture, provide training certificates in a timely fashion and participate in one assigned Background Presentation and one assigned Research Presentation session (attend, listen and ask questions).

**NOTE:** Neuroscience 4000E is an essay course. Students must receive a passing grade in both the overall course and the written thesis assignments. Failure to submit a thesis assignment may- or the final thesis will- result in 'F' for the course.

**Designated Assessment:** Instructors are permitted to designate one assessment per course per term as requiring supporting documentation to receive academic consideration. See below for information on academic consideration policy and missed course work. For this course the following assessments have been designated as requiring supporting documentation:

- Background Presentation (due Oct 25, Nov 1, Nov 8)
- Research Presentation (due Mar 7, 14, or 21)

### Information about flexibility in assessment

- ✓ Flexibility in assessment has been applied to this course; therefore, academic consideration requests may be denied on the assessments where flexibility is included
- ✓ This course employs flexible deadlines for written assignments. For each assignment, students are expected to submit the assignment by the deadline listed. Should illness or extenuating circumstances arise, students are permitted to submit their assignment up to 72 hours past the deadline without a late penalty. Should students submit their assessment beyond 72 hours past the deadline, a late penalty of 20% per day will be subtracted from the assessed grade. Requests for academic consideration supported by documentation must be submitted within 48 hours of the original deadline. The instructor reserves the right to deny such academic considerations, given the deadline flexibility provided. If you have a long-term academic consideration or an accommodation for disability that allows greater flexibility than provided here, please reach out to your instructor at least one week prior to the posted deadline.

### General information about assessments

- ✓ All assignments are due at 11:55PM EST unless otherwise specified
- ✓ Students are responsible for ensuring that the correct file version is uploaded; incorrect submissions including corrupt files could be subject to late penalties or a 0
- ✓ Written assignments will be submitted to Turnitin (statement in policies below)
- ✓ Students will have unlimited submissions to Turnitin
- ✓ Rubrics will be used to evaluate assessments and will be posted with the instructions
- ✓ A student might not receive the same grade as their group members if it is determined that the distribution of work was not equal
- ✓ 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
- ✓ Any grade appeals must be received within 3 weeks of the grade being posted.

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.

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

### Information about late or missed assessments:

- ✓ Unaccommodated late written thesis assessments submitted after the 'no-late-penalty' period will be subject to a late penalty of 20%/day.
- ✓ For written assignments with accommodation, the accommodation must cover the initial due date and the full 72-hour 'no-late-penalty' period. (Late assessments with accommodation should be submitted 24 hours after the end of the accommodation period)
- ✓ Students must pass the written components of the course. See Essay Course Guidelines below.

- ☒ If a make-up assessment is missed with documentation, the student will receive an INC and complete the task the next time the course is offered

**INC (Incomplete Standing):** If a student has been approved by the Academic Advising Office (in consultation with the instructor/department) to complete term work at a later date, an INC will be assigned. Students with INC will have their course load in subsequent terms reduced to allow them to complete outstanding course work. Students may request permission from Academic Advising to carry a full course load for the term the incomplete course work is scheduled.

**SPC (Special examination):** If a student has been approved by the Academic Advising Office to write a Special Examination and the final exam is the only outstanding course component, an SPC will be assigned. If the class has a makeup exam, the student is expected to write the makeup exam. If the class doesn't have a makeup exam or the student misses the makeup exam for reasons approved by the Academic Advising Office, the student will write the exam the next time the course is offered. Outstanding SPCs will reduce the course load for the term the exam is deferred as outlined in [Types of Examinations](#) policy.

## 9. Communication

- ☒ Students should check the OWL Brightspace site every 24–48 hours
- ☒ Students should email their instructor(s) and teaching assistant(s) using email.
- ☒ Emails will be monitored daily; students will receive a response in 24–48 hours
- ☒ This course will use discussions on Brightspace.
- ☒ Students should post all course-related queries on the discussion forum so that everyone can access the questions and responses

## 10. Office Hours

- ☒ Office hours will be held in person or over zoom
- ☒ Office hours will be held individually

## 11. Resources

- ☒ All resources will be posted in OWL Brightspace

## 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 (e.g., Must Knows Facebook group, Course Hero, Chegg, etc.)
- ☒ Recordings are not permitted (audio or video) without explicit permission
- ☒ Permitted recordings are not to be distributed
- ☒ Students will be expected to take an academic integrity pledge before some assessments

Western is committed to providing a learning and working environment that is free of harassment and discrimination. All **students**, staff, and faculty have a role in this commitment and have a responsibility to ensure and promote a safe and respectful learning and working environment. Relevant policies include

Western's [Non-Discrimination/Harassment Policy](#) (M.A.P.P. 1.35) and [Non-Discrimination/Harassment Policy – Administrative Procedures](#) (M.A.P.P. 1.35). Any **student**, staff, or faculty member who experiences or witnesses' behaviour that may be harassment or discrimination **must report the behaviour** to the Western's [Human Rights Office](#). Harassment and discrimination can be human rights-based, which is also known as EDI-based, (sexism, racism, transphobia, homophobia, islamophobia, xenophobia, antisemitism, and ableism) or non-human rights-based (personal harassment or workplace harassment).

### 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. Ensure you are in regular contact with your research supervisor.
3. Write regularly. Do not leave written assignments until the week they are due, but begin creating and editing them early on in the course.
4. Create a Gantt chart (google can help) with your thesis tasks, working backward from deadlines.
5. Practice your presentations with peers and your lab/supervisor before presenting in class.
6. Do not be afraid to ask questions. If you are struggling with a topic, check the online discussion boards or contact your instructor and or teaching assistants.
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

#### A. Absence from Course Commitments

Students must familiarize themselves with the Policy on [Academic Consideration – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs](#)

Students missing course work for medical, compassionate, or extenuating circumstances can request academic consideration by completing a request at the central academic consideration portal. Students are permitted one academic consideration request per course per term **without** supporting documentation. Note that supporting documentation is **always** required for academic consideration requests for examinations scheduled by the office of the registrar (e.g., December and April exams) and for practical laboratory and performance tests (typically scheduled during the last week of the term).

Students should also note that the instructor may **designate** one assessment per course per term that requires supporting documentation. This designated assessment is described elsewhere in this document. Academic consideration requests may be denied when flexibility in assessment has already been included. Examples of flexibility in assessment include when there are assessments not required for calculation of the final grade (e.g. 8 out of 10 quizzes) or there is flexibility in the submission timeframe (e.g. 72 hour no late penalty period).

Please note that any academic considerations granted in this course will be determined by the instructor of this course, in consultation with the academic advisors in your Faculty of Registration, in accordance with information presented in this course syllabus. Supporting documentation for academic considerations for absences due to illness should use the [Student Medical Certificate](#) or, where that is not possible, equivalent documentation by a health care practitioner.

[Accommodation for Religious Holidays](#)

Students should review the policy for [Accommodation for Religious Holidays](#). Where a student will be unable to write examinations and term tests due to a conflicting religious holiday, they should inform their instructors as soon as possible but not later than two weeks prior to writing the examination/term test. In the case of conflict with a midterm test, students should inform their instructor as soon as possible but not later than one week prior to the midterm.

### 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](#).

### **B. Academic Offenses**

Scholastic offences are taken seriously, and students are directed [here](#) to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence.

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

### **C. 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](#)

### **D. 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](#).

### **E. 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](#).

### **F. 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.

#### **G. 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](https://www.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, e.g., cell phones, tablets, cameras, smart glasses, smart watch 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., 74.45 becomes 74, and 74.50 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.

#### **Statement on the use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) Platforms**

Within this course, students are permitted to use AI tools exclusively for information gathering and preliminary research purposes. It is essential that students critically evaluate the obtained information, exercise independent thinking, and engage in original research to synthesize and develop their own ideas, arguments, and perspectives. The use of AI tools can serve as a starting point for exploration, with students expected to uphold academic integrity by appropriately attributing all sources and avoiding plagiarism. Assignments and/or lab reports should reflect the students' own thoughts and independent written work. Generative AI often produces prose that violates good standards for scientific writing (e.g., conciseness, consistency of terminology). By adhering to these guidelines, students contribute to a

responsible and ethical learning environment that promotes critical thinking, independent inquiry and allows them to produce original written contributions.

## 16. Support Services

- Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health @Western Health <https://www.uwo.ca/health/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.
- To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact [support@uwo.ca](mailto:support@uwo.ca).
- Other important links:
  - [Academic Advising \(Science and Basic Medical Sciences\)](#)
  - [Appeal Procedures](#)
  - [Registrarial Services](#)
  - [Student Development Services](#)
  - [Student Health Services](#)

### Statement on Gender-Based and Sexual Violence

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at:

[https://www.uwo.ca/health/student\\_support/survivor\\_support/get-help.html](https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html).