

# First-year course planning 2026-27



## Bachelor of Arts (BA)

This guide is designed for 1st year Bachelor of Arts (BA) students to help you choose courses and plan your schedule for a successful first year as a BA student! The BA program has many possibilities and options, and this guide doesn't include all program requirements. For complete program requirements, please see the [Dalhousie Academic Calendar](#) or ask your academic advisor. Students can contact the Bissett Student Success Centre for academic advising by calling (902) 494-3077 or emailing [advising@dal.ca](mailto:advising@dal.ca).

Before getting started, here are some general tips:

- Most courses are 3 credit hours (shown as .03), but some are 6 credit hours (shown as .06).
- Full time is considered a minimum of 9 credit hours a term, and 15 credit hours a term is considered a full course load. You cannot exceed 15 credit hours per term in your first year.
- Typically, students take 1000-level introductory courses in their first year, which are often prerequisites for 2000-, 3000-, or 4000-level courses. Prerequisites are courses that you must complete before taking it. For instance, many language courses are described as Part 1 and Part 2. Most of the time, you must complete Part 1 before Part 2 (Part 1 is a prerequisite for Part 2). Check the course descriptions in the Academic Timetable to ensure you're aware of any prerequisites (or other restrictions) for any classes you plan to take.

## Required First Year Course

**ASSC 1300 or 1400 Introduction to the Humanities/Introduction to the Social Sciences - 3 credit hours**

- One of these courses must be completed in your first fall term. You cannot take both ASSC 1400 and ASSC 1300. If the course is full, please join the waitlist. If the waitlist is full, please email [asstdeanfass@dal.ca](mailto:asstdeanfass@dal.ca).

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## Recommended First Year Courses

### Writing requirement – 3 or 6 credit hours

BA students must take an approved writing course(s). Below is the list of approved writing courses offered in the 2026/2027 academic year. Students are encouraged to complete the Writing Requirement in their first year of studies. Writing Requirement courses can also fulfill one of the Subject Groupings.

BA students may either fulfill this requirement by completing **ASSC1111.03**, which fulfills the entire BA writing requirement on its own, or by choosing 6 credit hours of courses from the following:

- **English/Creative Writing:** ENGL/CRWR1030.06
- **English:** ENGL1015.03, ENGL1040.03,
- **English (Agricultural Campus):** EGLA1000.03\*
- **Journalism:** JOUR1002.03 & JOUR1003.03
- **Oceanography:** OCEA1001.03 & OCEA1002.03 (must be taken together for course credit)
- **Sustainability:** SUST1000.06

\* Offered online-asynchronous through the Agricultural Campus.

### Subject groupings – 18 credit hours

BA students must complete 6 credit hours for each subject group:

- Languages and Humanities
- Social Science
- Life and Physical Sciences

Courses may fulfill both a Subject Grouping Requirement and Writing Requirement. However, courses cannot fulfill both the Language Requirement and the Subject Grouping Requirement. Below is a list of subjects that fall into each Subject Grouping. You can take anything from each list, but a single course cannot double count and cannot fulfill more than one Subject Grouping Requirement.

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<p><b>Subject Grouping 1: Languages and Humanities (6 credit hours)</b></p> <p>Arabic, Black and African Diaspora Studies, Canadian Studies, Chinese (Mandarin), Cinema and Media Studies, Classics, Comparative Religion, Contemporary Studies, Creative Writing, Early Modern Studies, English, European Studies, French, Gender and Women's Studies, German, Greek, History, History of Science and Technology, Indigenous Studies, Italian Studies, King's Foundation Year, Latin, Music, Performance Studies, Philosophy, Religious Studies, Spanish, Theatre.</p>	<p><b>Subject Grouping 2: Social Science (6 credit hours)</b></p> <p>Black and African Diaspora Studies; Canadian Studies; Contemporary Studies; Early Modern Studies; European Studies; Economics; Gender and Women's Studies; History; History of Science and Technology; Human Geography; Indigenous Studies; International Development Studies; Law, Justice and Society; Political Science; Psychology; Sociology and Social Anthropology.</p>	<p><b>Subject Grouping 3: Life Sciences and Physical Sciences (6 credit hours)</b></p> <p>Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Earth Sciences, Economics, Engineering, Environmental Science, Human Physiology, Informatics, Marine Biology, Mathematics, Microbiology and Immunology, Neuroscience, Oceanography, Physics, Psychology, Science, Statistics, Sustainability.</p>
<p><b>Language or Math requirement – 6 credit hours</b></p>		
<p>BA students* must obtain six credit hours in a <i>single</i> language. It is recommended that the language requirement be completed in a single academic year and can be completed after the first year. Courses that satisfy the Language Requirement cannot also satisfy Subject Grouping 1. Below is the list of approved language courses offered in the 2026/2027 academic year. Please choose from any bullet from the list below to fulfill your language requirement. (<b>Note:</b> Upper-level language courses may be substituted for students with advanced language skills. Please talk to the Registrar's Office or a department advisor).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Arabic:</b> ARBC1021.03 &amp; ARBC1022.03</li> <li>• <b>Chinese (Mandarin):</b> CHIN1031.03 &amp; CHIN1032.03</li> <li>• <b>Latin:</b> CLAS2401.03 &amp; CLAS2402.03</li> <li>• <b>Classical Hebrew:</b> CLAS2920.03 &amp; CLAS2921.03</li> <li>• <b>Ancient Greek:</b> CLAS2505.03 &amp; CLAS2506.03</li> </ul>		

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- **French:** any course(s) taught in French
- **German:** GERM1003.03 & GERM1004.03 or GERM1010.06
- **Mi'kmaw:** INDG2901.03 & INDG2902.03
- **Italian:** ITAL1000.03 & ITAL1001.03
- **Spanish:** SPAN1021.03 & SPAN1022.03 or SPAN1035.06

\*Math Requirement: BA students who choose to major in economics; philosophy; law, justice and society; political science; psychology; or sociology and social anthropology can choose to substitute the 6 credit hour Language Requirement with 6 credit hours in mathematics or statistics taught by the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, other than MATH 1001.03, MATH 1002.03, MATH 1003.03, MATH 1110.03, MATH 1120.03, or MATH 1115.03; or they may meet it by passing the test administered by the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

## Electives

Your first year is an excellent time to start exploring subjects that interest you. Whether you know what subject you want to pursue or are considering your options, you can sample courses from different subject areas in your first year. There are many different subjects and types of programs that you can pursue as a BA student. The table below has recommended courses by subject area. If you are interested in pursuing a program in any listed subject areas, you may consider some of these courses in your first (or second) year.

Not all program areas listed below offer Majors; some programs only offer Combined Honours, or Double Majors. These programs have been marked with an asterisk \*. The list below doesn't include programs offered as Minors only (not Majors, Honours, Double Majors, or Combined Honours) or programs offered through the Faculty of Science.

Recommended courses by subject area include:

<b>Black and African Diaspora Studies</b> BAFD1000.03 & BAFD2005.03	<b>Cinema and Media Studies</b> It is recommended for students to complete the writing requirement and	<b>Classics</b> Writing requirement
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	take PERF1002: Watching Performance on Stage and Screen	Students are encouraged to take two language courses in Greek and/or Latin. (e.g. CLAS2401.03 & CLAS2402.03, or CLAS2505.03, & CLAS2506.03)
<b>Contemporary Studies*</b>  At least 12 credit hours of 1000-level courses at Dalhousie	<b>Creative Writing*</b>  6 credit hour Writing Requirement in ENGL, or CRWR. CRWR1030.06 is recommended	<b>Early Modern Studies*</b>  At least 12 credit hours of 1000-level courses
<b>English</b>  6 credit hour Writing requirement in ENGL or CRWR	<b>Environment, Sustainability and Society*</b>  SUST1000.06 or SUST1400.03  SUST1001.06	<b>European Studies</b>  HIST1020.03 & HIST1021.03 or equivalent course(s) totaling 6 credit hours in a later year
<b>French</b>  FREN1047.03 & FREN1048.03 or  FREN1057.03 & FREN1058.03, or  2000-level Placement Test result	<b>Gender &amp; Women's Studies</b>  Writing Requirement  At least one of the following: GWST1010.03, GWST1015.03, SOSA1002.03 or SOSA1003.03	<b>German</b>  If there is no previous knowledge of German take: GERM 1010.06, or GERM1003.03 & GERM1004.03  All students with prior knowledge of German should see the German Undergraduate Advisor
<b>History</b>  HIST1020.03 & HIST1021.03 or	<b>History of Science &amp; Technology*</b>  There are no prerequisites for 2000-level HSTC courses. Students interested	<b>International Development Studies</b>

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HIST1501.03	in the subject can take: HSTC1201.03 & HSTC1202.03	Students are highly encouraged to take: INTD1102.03/CANA1102.03 & INTD1103.03/CANA1103.03
<p><b>Law, Justice &amp; Society</b></p> <p>It is recommended that students take 3-6 credit hours of intro courses in political science, sociology, social anthropology, philosophy, and history and complete the writing requirement. E.g.:</p> <p>PHIL1500.03 &amp; PHIL1501.03</p> <p>POLI1060.03 &amp; POLI1065.03</p> <p>SOSA1002.03 &amp; SOSA1003.03</p> <p>HIST1020.03 &amp; HIST1021.03</p>	<p><b>Philosophy</b></p> <p>PHIL1500.03 and/or PHIL1501.03</p>	<p><b>Political Science</b></p> <p>POLI1060.03 &amp; POLI1065.03</p>
<p><b>Religious Studies</b></p> <p>6 credit hours of 1000-level RELS courses</p>	<p><b>Sociology &amp; Social Anthropology</b></p> <p>SOSA1002.03 and/or SOSA1003.03</p>	<p><b>Spanish &amp; Latin American Studies</b></p> <p>SPAN1021.03 &amp; SPAN1022.03, or SPAN1035.06</p>

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