

Specializations for this Major ⓘ

Yes - Optional

Specialization Details ⓘ

Students may choose to focus their elective choices by completing the intensive specialization or the practicum specialization, and/or the available topic specialization.

Specializations List ⓘ

- Counselling Specialization, Human Services Practicum Specialization, or Intensive Research Specialization

Workflow Information

Change to Undergraduate Communication Requirement

No

Workflow Path ⓘ

Committee approvals

Faculty/AFIW Path(s) for Workflow ⓘ

Faculty of ArtsSt. Jerome's University

Senate Workflow

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Dependencies

Dependent Courses and Programs/Plans

PREREQUISITES

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| ✓ SMF 400 - Capstone Seminar | View Courses > |
| ✓ SMF 490 - Practicum and Professional Ethics | View Courses > |
| ✓ SMF 491 - Practicum and Applied Theory | View Courses > |
| ✓ SMF 499A - Thesis - Part 1 | View Courses > |
| ✓ SMF 499B - Thesis - Part 2 | View Courses > |

SPECIALIZATION IS AVAILABLE FOR STUDENTS IN THE FOLLOWING MAJORS

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| ✓ Counselling Specialization - Counselling Specialization | View Programs > |
| ✓ Intensive Research Specialization - Intensive Research Specialization | View Programs > |
| ✓ Human Services Practicum Specialization - Human Services Practicum Specialization | View Programs > |

UG-ARTS-Averages and Academic Standings

Arts: Averages and Academic Standings

Under Review | Fall 2025

Proposal Information

Status

Active

Workflow Status

In Progress

SUC Subcommittee, SUC Curricular Subcommittee [expand ▲](#)

Waiting for Approval | Approval Delegate(s)

Tim Weber-Kraljevski

Mike Grivicic

Diana Goncalves

Kuali - Arts

Kuali - Env

Melanie Figueiredo

Kuali - Math

Kuali - Eng

Kuali - Hlth

Changes

- Admin Notes
- Regulation Details
- Effective Term and Year
- participants

Effective Date & Career

Career

Undergraduate

IMPORTANT!

Proposed

Effective Term and Year

Fall 2025

Existing

Effective Term and Year

Fall 2023

Proposal Details

Proposal Type

Change

Rationale and Background

The current terminology used in the calendar, "first" and "second" failed decision is not applicable to every student group in Arts. For example, Arts Bridge to Academic Success in English (BASE) students, AFM QPP students, Arts Non-Degree students, all receive an FL4 – Failed May Not Continue in Faculty decision if they don't meet the specified program conditions. While this is their first fail in the Faculty of Arts, it results in an FL4 (not FL3). The changes below more accurately capture how these standings are applied for all students in Arts, and use the specific terminology that is linked to the FL3 and FL4 academic standing codes.

Supporting Documentation

General Regulation Information

Type of Regulation

Faculty-specific

Faculty

Faculty of Arts

Regulation Grouping

Regulations for Faculty of Arts Students

Regulation Page Name

Arts: Averages and Academic Standings

Description

readmission after failed standing, average definitions, academic standings, Foundation Term

Regulation Details

Proposed

Averages

- **Cumulative Overall Average (CAV):** Average of the grades in all courses taken regardless of faculty.
- **Faculty (Arts) Average (FAV):** Average of the grades in all Faculty of Arts courses.
 - Does not include courses with the following subject codes: BASE, EFAS, SWREN, UNIV.
- **Major Average (MAV):** Average of the grades in all courses taken within the student's major.
 - All courses taken under the subject code of the student's major and those courses listed under the plan-level requirements are included in the major average regardless of whether any of these courses are in excess of the minimum required by the major.
- **Term Average:** Average of the grades in all courses taken within a particular academic term.
- **Minor Average:** Average of the grades in all courses taken within the student's minor.
 - All courses taken under the subject code of the student's minor and those courses listed as optional requirements are included in the minor average regardless of whether any of these courses is in excess of the minimum required by the minor.
 - Cross-listed courses count towards the minor average in the same way they do for the major average (see below for details).
- **Diploma Average:** Average of the grades in all courses taken within the student's diploma.
 - All courses taken under the subject code of the student's diploma and those courses listed as optional requirements are included in the diploma average regardless of whether any of these courses is in excess of the minimum required by the diploma.
 - Cross-listed courses count towards the diploma average in the same way they do for the major average (see below for details).

Cross-listed Courses in Calculation of Averages

- Any course taken (under any subject code) which was cross-listed with a course in a student's plan in the Undergraduate Calendar they are following (that is, is included in their requirement term) is included in the plan average. For example, a Psychology student enrolled in PHIL256 (cross-listed with PSYCH256) will have the course grade counted towards the Psychology plan average only if PHIL256/PSYCH256 was cross-listed in their requirement term. If a course is later cross-listed and a student takes the course when it is cross-listed, it will not count in the plan average unless a student changes their requirement term to a term in which the course is cross-listed. For example, if PHIL256 was de-cross-listed from PSYCH256, PHIL256 would continue to count in the student's plan average unless they switched their Psychology requirements to a later requirement term, when the pair is no longer cross-listed, at which point it would stop counting. Similarly, if PHIL256 was not cross-listed at the time the student took the course, but became cross-listed and the student opted in to a newer Psychology requirement term, PHIL256 would now count towards the plan average.
- Cross-listed courses in a different faculty will not be included in the Faculty of Arts average (FAV).
- Cross-listed courses in a different faculty taken to fulfil Arts major plan requirements will be included in the corresponding MAV.

Notes

1. For Wilfrid Laurier University courses, see Wilfrid Laurier University Cross-Registration.
2. Students who have received transfer credit(s) or had grades cleared should refer to Transfer Information for further details.
3. Liberal Studies plans function as majors for the purposes of plan-level requirements, calculation of averages, academic progression, and plan combinations.

Academic Standings

Academic standing is a measure of the student's academic achievement relative to their degree requirements, and determines their eligibility to be admitted to and/or proceed in their academic plan and to qualify for graduation. A student's academic standing is determined by the averages attained in the Cumulative Overall Average (CAV), Faculty (Arts) Average (FAV), and Major Average (MAV).

Students who meet the academic requirements for their major will be in Excellent, Good, or Satisfactory standing, depending on the major and their term and overall averages. Failure to meet minimum cumulative average requirements for the major may result in a Conditional or Failed standing, or a decision to proceed to an alternate plan for which the student qualifies. Students in conditional standing are required to speak with their academic advisor for advice to increase the likelihood of success in the conditional term.

Even while otherwise in satisfactory standing, a student who fails two or more academic courses within the first five academic course units or fewer may be required to withdraw if the Arts Examinations and Standings Committee considers that the student will not profit by further study.

Students can find their term grades in Quest and academic standing on their unofficial transcripts.

Bachelor of Accounting and Financial Management

To be in satisfactory standing in **Bachelor of Accounting and Financial Management (BAFM), Honours**, a student must maintain:

- a minimum cumulative average of 70% in the courses specified for the BAFM degree requirements, **and**
- a minimum cumulative overall average of 60%.

For further information, consult the School of Accounting and Finance website.

Bachelor of Arts

Year One Students

To be in satisfactory standing in **General Arts Year One**, a student must maintain:

- a minimum cumulative average of 65% in all Faculty of Arts courses, **and**
- a minimum cumulative overall average of 60%.

To be in satisfactory standing in **Honours Arts Year One**, a student must maintain:

- a minimum cumulative average of 70% in the potential major (end of 1B term), **and**
- a minimum cumulative overall average of 60%.

To be in satisfactory standing in **Honours Arts and Business**, a student must maintain:

- a minimum cumulative average of 70% in the potential major (end of 1B term), **and**
- a minimum cumulative average of 70% in the Arts and Business group of courses, **and**
- a minimum cumulative overall average of 60%.

Upper-Year Students

To be in satisfactory standing in a **general plan**, a student must maintain:

- a minimum cumulative average of 65% in all courses taken in the major, or a minimum cumulative average of 65% in all Arts courses in Liberal Studies, **and**
- a minimum cumulative overall average of 60%.

To be in satisfactory standing in an **honours plan**, a student must maintain:

- a minimum cumulative overall average of 60%, **and**
- a minimum cumulative average of 70% in all courses taken in the honours major, or a minimum cumulative average of 70% in all Arts courses in Liberal Studies, **or**
- a minimum cumulative average of 75% in all courses taken in the Honours Intensive Specialization major.

A student pursuing an honours double major must maintain a minimum cumulative average of 70% in all courses taken in each honours major. A student pursuing a joint honours major should consult the plan requirements and academic standing regulations listed for the appropriate faculty.

To be in satisfactory standing in **Honours Arts and Business (co-op and regular)**, a student must maintain (in addition to the honours plans requirement) a minimum cumulative average of 70% in the Arts and Business group of courses.

Bachelor of Computing and Financial Management

To be in good standing in **Bachelor of Computing and Financial Management (BCFM), Honours**, a student must maintain:

- a minimum cumulative average of 70% in the required courses from the Faculty of Arts and any free choice courses taken from the Faculty of Arts, **and**
- a minimum cumulative average of 60% in the required courses from the Faculty of Mathematics and any free choice courses taken from the Faculty of Mathematics, **and**
- a minimum cumulative overall average of 60%.

Failure to meet the minimum standing for the plan, more than two academic course units (four courses) of failed/excluded courses, or a difference of more than five academic course units (10 courses) between units attempted and units completed, may result in a Conditional standing, a Required to Withdraw - May Not Continue in Faculty standing, or a standing to proceed to an alternate plan for which the student qualifies.

Bachelor of Global Business and Digital Arts

To be in satisfactory standing in **Bachelor of Global Business and Digital Arts (BGBDA), Honours**, a student must maintain:

- a minimum cumulative average of 70% in the courses specified for the BGBDA degree requirements, **and**
- a minimum cumulative overall average of 60%.

Bachelor of Sustainability and Financial Management

To be in satisfactory standing in **Bachelor of Sustainability and Financial Management (BSFM), Honours**, a student must maintain:

- a minimum cumulative average of 70% in the courses specified for the BSFM degree requirements, **and**
- a minimum cumulative overall average of 60%.

For further information, consult the School of Accounting and Finance website.

Non-Degree Program

To be in satisfactory standing, a non-degree student must maintain a minimum cumulative Faculty of Arts average of 65%.

In the following instances, a student can be registered as a non-degree student yet receive no academic standing decision:

- Students from other universities studying on a Letter of Permission basis.
- Students from other universities studying on an approved international exchange.
- Students who elect to proceed with studies despite having been assigned a Failed - Required to Withdraw standing decision in the previous term.

Post-Degree Program

Post-degree students must maintain a minimum cumulative overall average of 60%.

Foundation Term

The Foundation Term aims to assist students in continuing their studies at the University of Waterloo with more success. Refer to Arts specific Foundation Term information.

Students who receive a Failed academic standing at the end of their first or second term of study who apply for readmission may complete the Foundation Term after a minimum one-term absence.

Normally, students in 2A or above who receive their first Failed academic standing decision may apply for readmission to the University of Waterloo after an absence of two consecutive terms (eight months).

For more information, contact the Arts Undergraduate Office.

Readmission Following a Failed Academic Standing Decision

Required to Withdraw Decision in Arts

A student who has received a **Failed - Required to Withdraw** academic standing decision at the end of their first or second term of study should consult with their academic advisor. Normally, the student will first complete the Foundation Term or absent themselves for two terms. See the Registrar's Office website for information about the courses taken during a Foundation Term.

A student who has received a **Failed - Required to Withdraw** academic standing decision is eligible to apply for readmission after an absence of two terms (with the exception of first-year students who may be eligible for the Foundation Term).

To apply for readmission, a student must first complete an Application for Undergraduate Readmission within the specified deadlines.

Notes

1. Students contemplating readmission after receiving a Failed decision are strongly encouraged to consult the Arts Undergraduate Office prior to application.
2. Students contemplating readmission should take into consideration course selection dates when determining when to re-apply as course availability may be affected.

If a Student is Granted Readmission

- All previous University of Waterloo course attempts and grades will remain recorded on the student's transcript.
 - The student's cumulative overall and Arts (or major) averages will be **cleared**, that is, grades achieved in all previous course work will not count in cumulative averages.
 - Previous course work, where it is applied to degree requirements, is considered transfer credit and subject to transfer credit regulations.
- It is the student's responsibility to inform themselves of their transferred credits by meeting with an academic advisor, reading the transfer credit letter issued to them upon readmission, and viewing their unofficial transcript in Quest.

To fulfil degree requirements for graduation, students whose cumulative averages have been cleared must observe the following requirements:

- Cumulative and Arts (or major) averages for the degree will be based on courses taken following readmission and clearing.
- For a three-year degree, complete a minimum of 7.5 additional academic course units (15 courses).
- For a four-year degree, complete a minimum of 10 additional academic course units (20 courses).
- Complete at least half of the total number of University of Waterloo Arts courses required in the major.
 - For Three-Year General Liberal Studies, at least four academic course units (eight courses) must be University of Waterloo Arts courses.
 - For Four-Year General and Honours Liberal Studies, at least 6.5 academic course units (13 courses) must be University of Waterloo Arts courses.

Failed - May not Continue in Faculty Decision in Arts

In the event a student receives a **Failed - May not Continue in Faculty** academic standing in Arts, an application for readmission will normally not be considered until a period of at least five years has elapsed. In such instances, readmission is not guaranteed.

Existing

Averages

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To be in satisfactory standing in an **honours plan**, a student must maintain:

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- a minimum cumulative average of 70% in all courses taken in the honours major, or a minimum cumulative average of 70% in all Arts courses in Liberal Studies, **or**
- a minimum cumulative average of 75% in all courses taken in the Honours Intensive Specialization major.

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Readmission Following a Failed Academic Standing Decision

First Failed Decision in Arts

A student who has received a **Failed** academic standing decision at the end of their first or second term of study should consult with their academic advisor. Normally, the student will first complete the Foundation Term or absent themselves for two terms. See the Registrar's Office website for information about the courses taken during a Foundation Term.

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Notes

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2. Students contemplating readmission should take into consideration course selection dates when determining when to re-apply as course availability may be affected.

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- It is the student's responsibility to inform themselves of their transferred credits by meeting with an academic advisor, reading the transfer credit letter issued to them upon readmission, and viewing their unofficial transcript in Quest.

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- For a four-year degree, complete a minimum of 10 additional academic course units (20 courses).
- Complete at least half of the total number of University of Waterloo Arts courses required in the major.
 - For Three-Year General Liberal Studies, at least four academic course units (eight courses) must be University of Waterloo Arts courses.
 - For Four-Year General and Honours Liberal Studies, at least 6.5 academic course units (13 courses) must be University of Waterloo Arts courses.

Second Failed Decision in Arts

In the event a student receives a second **Failed** academic standing in Arts, an application for readmission will normally not be considered until a period of at least five years has elapsed. In such instances, readmission is not guaranteed.

Workflow Information

Change to Undergraduate Communication Requirement

No

Workflow Path

Committee approvals

Faculty/AFIW Path(s) for Workflow

Faculty of Arts

Senate Workflow

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