

# 2009-2010 Undergraduate Calendar

The information published in this Undergraduate Calendar outlines the rules, regulations, curricula, programs and fees for the 2009-2010 academic year, including the Summer Semester 2009, the Fall Semester 2009 and the Winter Semester 2010.

For your convenience the Undergraduate Calendar is available in PDF format.

If you wish to link to the Undergraduate Calendar please refer to the Linking Guidelines.

The University is a full member of:

- The Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada

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The logo for the University of Guelph, featuring the text "UNIVERSITY of GUELPH" in a stylized font.The tagline "CHANGING LIVES IMPROVING LIFE" in a bold, sans-serif font, set against a yellow background.

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# Disclaimer

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## University of Guelph 2009

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The information published in this Undergraduate Calendar outlines the rules, regulations, curricula, programs and fees for the 2009-2010 academic year, including the Summer Semester 2009, the Fall Semester 2009 and the Winter Semester 2010.

The University reserves the right to change without notice any information contained in this calendar, including fees, any rule or regulation pertaining to the standards for admission to, the requirements for the continuation of study in, and the requirements for the granting of degrees or diplomas in any or all of its programs. The publication of information in this calendar does not bind the University to the provision of courses, programs, schedules of studies, or facilities as listed herein.

The University will not be liable for any interruption in, or cancellation of, any academic activities as set forth in this calendar and related information where such interruption is caused by fire, strike, lock-out, inability to procure materials or trades, restrictive laws or governmental regulations, actions taken by faculty, staff or students of the University or by others, civil unrest or disobedience, public health emergencies, or any other cause of any kind beyond the reasonable control of the University.

In the event of a discrepancy between a print version (downloaded) and the Web version, the Web version will apply.

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## **Introduction**

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### **Collection, Use and Disclosure of Personal Information**

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Personal information is collected under the authority of the University of Guelph Act (1964), and in accordance with Ontario's Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA) <http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/index.html>. This information is used by University officials in order to carry out their authorized academic and administrative responsibilities and also to establish a relationship for alumni and development purposes. Certain personal information is disclosed to external agencies, including the Ontario Universities Application Centre, the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, and Statistics Canada, for statistical and planning purposes, and is disclosed to other individuals or organizations in accordance with the Office of Registrarial Services Departmental Policy on the Release of Student Information. For details on the use and disclosure of this information call the Office of Registrarial Services at the University at (519) 824-4120 or see <http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/registrar/index.cfm?index>.

### **Statistics Canada - Notification of Disclosure**

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For further information, please see Statistics Canada's web site at <http://www.statcan.ca> and Section XIV Statistics Canada.

### **Address for University Communication**

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Depending on the nature and timing of the communication, the University may use one of these addresses to communicate with students. Students are, therefore, responsible for checking all of the following on a regular basis:

#### **Email Address**

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The University issued email address is considered an official means of communication with the student and will be used for correspondence from the University. Students are responsible for monitoring their University-issued email account regularly. See Section I--Statement of Students' Academic Responsibilities for more information.

#### **Home Address**

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Students are responsible for maintaining a current mailing address with the University. Address changes can be made, in writing, through Undergraduate Program Services.

#### **Name Changes**

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The University of Guelph is committed to the integrity of its student records, therefore, each student is required to provide either on application for admission or on personal data forms required for registration, his/her complete, legal name. Any requests to change a name, by means of alteration, deletion, substitution or addition, must be accompanied by appropriate supporting documentation.

### **Student Confidentiality and Release of Student Information Policy Excerpt**

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The University undertakes to protect the privacy of each student and the confidentiality of his or her record. To this end the University shall refuse to disclose personal information to any person other than the individual to whom the information relates where disclosure would constitute an unjustified invasion of the personal privacy of that person or of any other individual. All members of the University community must respect the confidential nature of the student information which they acquire in the course of their work.

Complete policy at <http://www.uoguelph.ca/policies/pdf/ORSInfoReleasePolicy060610.pdf>.



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## Table of Contents

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<b>VII. Academic Advising .....</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Students .....</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Faculty Advisors .....</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Program Counsellors .....</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Undergraduate Academic Information Centre .....</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Council on Undergraduate Academic Advising .....</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Interpretation of University Academic Regulations .....</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Non-Academic Counselling .....</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Program Approval .....</b>	<b>26</b>



## VII. Academic Advising

A university education is a complex and multi-faceted experience, which is best undertaken in a supportive and encouraging environment. As part of its dedication to student success, the University of Guelph is committed to providing high-quality academic advising, in order to assist students in the development and pursuit of academic objectives consistent with their life goals and the available opportunities at the University. The responsibility for developing educational plans and setting goals rests with the student. Academic advising contributes to this process by identifying alternatives, exploring likely outcomes, and referring students to appropriate resources.

Academic advising at Guelph is delivered by a team which includes faculty advisors, program counsellors, the Undergraduate Academic Information Centre (UAIC), the Associate Vice-President (Academic) and others. Coordinating all activity is the University's Council on Undergraduate Academic Advising (CUAA), which has responsibility for overall advising systems direction and policy. The UAIC provides general walk-in assistance to students and, as appropriate, directs students to specialized advising resources. Each student has direct access to a Program Counsellor, who assists with degree program requirements and expectations. Students who are registered in a degree program that requires/allows for the declaration of a specialization (major, minor, area of concentration) also have direct access to Faculty Advisors. Faculty Advisors are assigned to specializations and focus on subject-related issues and advice.

These components of the academic advising system work together to achieve goals and objectives that include:

- helping students develop an educational plan and choose an appropriate course of studies to meet their academic and life objectives
- ensuring that students are aware of opportunities and resources that can assist them in achieving their educational goals
- assisting students in interpreting university policies and procedures, and applying general rules to their specific cases
- facilitating resolution of academic problems, conflicts and concerns, as appropriate
- referring students as necessary to other resource units
- collecting and disseminating information on student needs, wants, perceptions, and trends in order to enhance institutional effectiveness and adaptability

Within the system, specific roles and responsibilities are distributed as indicated below:

### Students

#### Responsibilities of the Student

Students admitted to the University are responsible for understanding and meeting certain responsibilities regarding Undergraduate Degree Regulations and Procedures, degree requirements, course requirements, Schedule of Dates, rules of conduct and accessing the University of Guelph email account. These responsibilities are described in Section I of the Undergraduate Calendar.

The responsibilities of students regarding academic advising are to seek, when necessary:

- information from the Undergraduate Academic Information Centre
- advice and assistance regarding academics from the program counsellor or faculty advisor
- from the program counsellor or faculty advisor clarification of regulations and procedures

### Faculty Advisors

Most undergraduate degree programs have a faculty advisor for each of their specializations. A contact list for current faculty advisors is available on the Undergraduate Academic Information Centre website at [http://www.uoguelph.ca/uaic/faculty\\_advisors.shtml](http://www.uoguelph.ca/uaic/faculty_advisors.shtml).

#### Role of the Faculty Advisor

The faculty advisor has particular expertise in the program *specialization* (major, minor, area of concentration, area of emphasis) and the fit of that specialization within the degree program. The role of the faculty advisor is to:

- provide information about the academic requirements of the specialization, including eligibility to declare the specialization and graduation requirements
- refer to other campus services, as necessary
- communicate information about the specialization to the department and the curriculum committee, program committee, and program counsellor, and to bring forward any concerns or issues as students progress through the Schedule of Studies for the specialization
- liaise with the program counsellor for the degree program, in order to provide information about the specialization as it fits within the degree program

#### Responsibilities of the Faculty Advisor

The responsibilities of the faculty advisor are to:

- be familiar with the academic requirements of the specialization, including eligibility to declare the specialization and graduation requirements

- assist students wishing to change or add specializations
- approve the declaration of the specialization to the student's degree program and to sign specialization approval
- assist the student to make academic decisions
- refer students to the program counsellors, as appropriate
- offer advice about meeting the requirements of the Schedule of Study for the specialization
- be reasonably available to meet with students, as requested
- assist with graduation checks, as requested
- approve substitutions or exemptions for the specialization
- be aware of career and graduate study opportunities related to the field of study, or refer appropriately
- assist with course selection issues related to the specialization
- provide information to the department, curriculum committee, program committee, and program counsellor about issues or concerns concerning the Schedule of Studies for the specialization
- provide information and advice to the department and college, as requested, around enrolment management issues

### Program Counsellors

All undergraduate degree programs have a program counsellor. A contact list for current program counsellors is available on the Undergraduate Academic Information Centre website at [http://www.uoguelph.ca/uaic/program\\_counsellors.shtml](http://www.uoguelph.ca/uaic/program_counsellors.shtml).

#### Role of the Program Counsellor

The Program Counsellor has particular expertise in the *degree program* requirements and regulations, as well as the various specializations and their fit within the degree program. The Program Counsellor is also familiar with the policies and procedures that govern university practice. The role of the program counsellor is to:

- provide information about the academic requirements of the *degree program*, including admission requirements, Schedule of Studies requirements, Continuation of Study requirements, and graduation requirements
- refer to other campus services, as necessary
- communicate information about the degree program to the dean, chairs and directors, faculty advisors, curriculum committees, program committees (and their sub-committees); and to bring forward any concerns or issues as students progress through the Schedule of Studies for the degree program
- liaise with the faculty advisor for the specialization, in order to provide information about the degree program and the fit of the specialization within the degree program

#### Responsibilities of the Program Counsellor

The responsibilities of the program counsellor are to:

- be familiar with the academic requirements of the degree program and its specializations, including admission requirements, the Schedule of Studies and Continuation of Study requirements, and graduation requirements for the degree program
- assist the student to make academic decisions and understand the implications of those decisions
- assist with course selection and enrolment management issues as related to the degree program
- explain transfer procedures and requirements
- explain appeal procedures
- assist with graduation checks
- sign program approval, as appropriate
- change student type, as appropriate
- meet with students as requested, or required
- refer to the faculty advisor, as appropriate
- uphold the academic policies of the university
- help interpret the academic policies and procedures to students, staff, and faculty
- act as a source of referral to other campus services
- be generally aware of career and graduate study opportunities related to the field of study, or refer appropriately
- work closely with the faculty advisor on any changes to the Schedule of Studies
- consult, as necessary, with other campus services
- provide relevant information to the faculty advisors, departments, dean, curriculum and program committees (and sub-committees) about student issues with the degree program
- participate at liaison events, as requested

## **Undergraduate Academic Information Centre**

The role of the Undergraduate Academic Information Centre (UAIC) (U.C. Level 3, extension 56613, uaic@uoguelph.ca) is to provide general academic advising information to undergraduate students. This includes appropriate referral to the program counsellor, or faculty advisor, as well as other support services on campus.

For some students, the Centre may function as a first point of contact for information about academic issues. Peer helpers in the unit operate on an assessment and referral system - first helping the student to identify the problem or issue, and then, as necessary, referring her/ him to the appropriate resource (e.g. program counselling office, faculty / specialization advisor, Career Services, Financial Services, etc.).

At the Centre, students will find general information on topics including but not limited to transfer requirements and procedures; Continuation of Study requirements; admission and graduation requirements; information about appeal process and procedures; help with interpreting the calendar; or help with different forms. Students who require more detailed information about their particular degree program requirements, or who have more specific questions may be directed to the program counselling office or to the faculty advisor, as appropriate.

UAIC is a resource for all students, with particular sensitivity to issues facing transfer (advanced standing) students, non-degree and general studies students, and "undecided"\* students, including first year students or other students contemplating a change in program.

\* Although most University of Guelph students declare a major upon entry, "undecided" in this context refers to students who may be declared in a major but are now not sure whether the program is the right fit for their educational, career, or life goals.

## **Council on Undergraduate Academic Advising**

The role of the Council on Undergraduate Academic Advising (CUAA) is to develop, review, discuss, and recommend to senior administration on an ongoing basis any and all advising-related strategies, policies, and processes.

The CUAA is responsible for managing and directing academic advising policies at the university. The CUAA reports to, and is chaired by the Associate Vice-President (Academic). Membership includes broad representation from stakeholders across the university community including, but not limited to: program counsellors, faculty advisors, Office of Registrarial Services, Coordinator of Undergraduate Curriculum, deans, chairs, Student Affairs, Office of Open Learning/ SCOL, undergraduate students, Centre for International Programs, and the Coordinator of the Undergraduate Academic Information Centre. The Council normally meets once per semester.

The CUAA develops strategic directions and formulates policy on advising issues, coordinates planning around academic advising issues, and serves as a permanent communication channel to help coordinate the work of the various individuals and entities engaged in academic advising activities.

## **Interpretation of University Academic Regulations**

A student who requires assistance in the interpretation of the academic regulations of the University or the method of their application in reference to the student's particular circumstances should consult the Undergraduate Academic Information Centre, their Program Counsellor, or one of the Associate Registrars (Office of Registrarial Services, Level 3, University Centre).

## **Non-Academic Counselling**

Students are advised to consult the Student Life sub-section in Section XIV--General Information in this Calendar, for information on the types and locations of non-academic counselling offered by the University.

## **Program Approval**

Students should present their Academic Evaluation Report plus any updates when seeking academic advice. Approval is required if:

1. Most students who wish to register for more than 2.75 credits prior to the last day of an add period require program counsellor approval (some degree programs are exempt from the 2.75 maximum). On the last day of an add period all students can register in up to 3.25 credits in a semester without obtaining program counsellor approval.
2. Students who wish to make a change to their specialization within their current degree program (i.e. major, minor, area of concentration) must complete an Undergraduate Schedule of Studies Change Request form. Once the form has been completed the student must obtain the signature of the faculty advisor for that specialization prior to obtaining the signature of the program counsellor for the degree program and submit the completed form to Student Client Services (Level 3, University Centre).