

**Commerce 1GR0
DeGroote Student Experience and
Development I
2024-25 Course Outline**

**DeGroote School of Business
McMaster University**

COURSE OBJECTIVE

This course provides experiential activities for students to develop and apply foundational knowledge of highly sought skills in the workplace such as critical thinking, collaboration, communication, and self-management. Students will also start their leadership development journey at DeGroote by completing a survey and receiving individualized feedback on their leadership attributes.

Further, this course offers career development tools and learning experiences that facilitate students' transition to university and success in the Business Program. Students will gain knowledge of McMaster University's academic regulations, strategies for academic success, and the various services available to them within the university. 1GR0 is part of the 'GR0' series of courses (4 courses).

INSTRUCTOR AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor Name: Sue McCracken	Instructor e-mail: smccrac@mcmaster.ca
Instructional Assistant Name: Shelley Rottenberg	Instructional Assistant e-mail: rottensm@mcmaster.ca
Class Times: C01 – C03 – Tuesday 9:15am-10:15am C04 – C06 – Thursday 9:15am-10:15am C07 – C09 – Thursday 10:30am-11:30pm C10 – C12 – Wednesday 9:15am-10:15am	
Office Hours – DSB 226: Tuesdays & Wednesdays 10:30am – 11:20am or by appointment	

Course website: <http://avenue.mcmaster.ca>

COURSE ELEMENTS

Credit Value: 0	Leadership: Yes	IT skills: Yes	Global view: Yes
A2L: Yes	Ethics: Yes	Numeracy: Yes	Written skills: Yes
Participation: Yes	Innovation: Yes	Group work: Yes	Oral skills: Yes
Evidence-based: Yes	Experiential: Yes	Final Exam: No	Guest speaker(s): Yes

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is a pass/fail interactive and engaging course that will complement required courses, develop key essential skills, foster professional development and provide experiential learning opportunities for first-year students. Classes will be held every other week, with tutorials being held on the alternating weeks. Students will be expected to attend all classes, tutorials and the DeGroot 24-Hour Case – January 17 and 18, 2025.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Reflect on your learning style to take advantage of your strengths and mitigate challenges.
 2. Plan to conduct business research following the guidelines and strategies outlined in this course.
 3. Submit assignments as PowerPoint and Excel files using basic software functions via Avenue to Learn and other online learning tools.
 4. Contribute to group work using effective strategies for communication and team collaboration.
 5. Participate in oral group presentations applying the techniques provided in this course.
 6. Build a customized plan for success in the Business Program while considering institutional resources.
 7. Identify time and stress management strategies to achieve academic, personal and professional goals.
 8. Identify how your individual traits, behaviours, and motivations can make you a better leader.
 9. Understand how and when to appropriately use Generative Artificial Intelligence in your courses.
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COURSE MATERIALS

There is no required textbook for this course. All course materials will be provided in Avenue to Learn and the 1GR0 LibGuide (<https://libguides.mcmaster.ca/commerce1gr0>). Please check Avenue to Learn regularly throughout the course.

CLASS FORMAT

LEARNING ACTIVITIES	DESCRIPTION	TOOL(S)
Class Lectures	Live sessions led by your instructor and guest speakers	In assigned Classroom (every other week) C01 – C03: Tuesday 9:15am-10:15am C04 – C06: Thursday 9:15am-10:15am C07 – C10: Thursday 10:30am-11:30am C11 – C12: Wednesday 9:15am-10:15am

Self-Study	Various multimedia learning materials	Avenue to Learn At your own time over the week
Tutorials	Live sessions led by Teaching Assistants and guest speakers	In assigned Classroom (opposite weeks to lectures) C01 – C03: Tuesday 9:15am-10:15am C04 – C06: Thursday 9:15am-10:15am C07 – C10: Thursday 10:30am-11:30am C11 – C12: Wednesday 9:15am-10:15am

COURSE OVERVIEW AND ASSESSMENT

1GR0 is a full year course, consisting of 1GR0A and 1GR0B. To succeed in the course, students are required to pass each of:

- 1) the fall term (1GR0A);
- 2) the winter term (1GR0B);
- 3) the DeGroot 24HR Case on January 17 and 18, 2025.

FALL TERM (1GR0A)

EVALUATIONS	WEIGHT	DESCRIPTION
Participation and Attendance	30%	Attendance and engagement in classes and tutorials
Quizzes	15%	Completion of quizzes in Avenue to Learn
Reflection Activities	20%	Submission of reflection activities on learning experiences
Tutorial Activities	25%	Completion and submission of activities during tutorials
Career Activities	10%	Completion and submission of career activities

WINTER TERM (1GR0B)

EVALUATIONS	WEIGHT	DESCRIPTION
Participation and Attendance	30%	Attendance and engagement in classes and tutorials
Quizzes	15%	Completion of quizzes in Avenue to Learn
Reflection Activities	20%	Submission of reflection activities on learning experiences
Tutorial Activities	25%	Completion and submission of activities during tutorials
Career Activities	10%	Completion and submission of career activities

DeGroot 24HR Case (January 17 & 18, 2025)

EVALUATIONS	WEIGHT	DESCRIPTION
Participation and Attendance	50%	Attendance and engagement in DeGroot 24HR Case
Group Reflection	50%	Completion of peer review of DeGroot 24HR Case group

COURSE DELIVERABLES

FALL(1GR0A) AND WINTER(1GR0B) TERMS

Participation and Attendance – 30%

Participation is an important component of the classes and tutorials. Attendance will be taken in all classes and tutorials. Participation in classes will be assessed via engagement in classroom discussion and activities, including use of Top Hat. Participation in tutorials will be assessed via engagement in tutorial discussions and activities.

Students are expected to be on time for class and fully engage throughout the class. Students unable to attend a class/tutorial should inform the instructor and/or teaching assistant via email of the conflict before the class/tutorial.

An interim participation and attendance grade will be provided in December.

Quizzes – 15%

There will be short quizzes after each lecture. The quizzes will relate to the required reading materials and class content and activities. The quizzes must be completed by 11:59pm on the Sunday evening following the class. Avenue to Learn will be used for the completion/submission of the quizzes. Each quiz will be weighted equally. There will be no makeup for missed quizzes. Non-completion of a quiz will result in a score of zero on that quiz.

Reflection Activities – 20%

Students will be asked to complete four reflection activities throughout the course (two in the fall term and two in the winter term). These reflection activities will relate to the material and learnings from the course. Details will be provided during the class.

Tutorial Activities – 25%

Students will work on individual and group activities during their tutorials. Tutorials will be interactive and led by teaching assistants. Completed activities will be submitted via Avenue to Learn. The activities will relate to the previous week's class. Details will be provided in the tutorials.

Career Activities – 10%

Students will be asked to complete two career activities throughout the course. Term one will primarily focus on building your resume. Term two will focus on career development and job search toolkit. Details will be provided in classes and videos posted on Avenue to Learn.

DEGROOTE 24HR CASE – JANUARY 17 & 18, 2024

Participation and Attendance – 50%

Participation is mandatory for the DeGroot 24HR Case. The DeGroot 24HR Case is a key learning experience of the first year. All students are expected to participate and contribute over the 24 hours. Attendance will be taken multiple times. **Please block this weekend off in your calendars now.** Students with **approved** reasons for missing

the DeGroot 24HR Case will be provided an individual assignment to complete. More details will be provided during the class.

Group Reflection – 50%

The DeGroot 24HR Case will be completed in a group of 4-5 students from your tutorial. At the completion of the case, your group will be asked to provide a group reflection based on your learnings and key takeaways from the experience. More details will be provided in class.

COMMUNICATION AND FEEDBACK

Students who wish to correspond with instructors or TAs directly via email must send messages that originate from their official McMaster University email account. This protects the confidentiality and sensitivity of information as well as confirms the identity of the student.

All students must receive feedback regarding their progress prior to the final date by which a student may cancel the course without failure by default.

☑ *For Level 1 and Level 2 courses, this feedback must equal a minimum of 20% of the final grade.*

☑ *For Level 3 courses and above, this feedback must equal a minimum of 10% of the final grade.*

Instructors may solicit feedback via an informal course review with students by Week #4 to allow time for modifications in curriculum delivery.

Students who have concerns about the course content, evaluation methods, or delivery should first reach out to the course instructor. If your concern remains unresolved after speaking with the instructor, you may then reach out to the relevant Area Chair for further consideration.

REQUESTING RELIEF FOR MISSED ACADEMIC WORK

In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar [“Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work”](#) and the link below*;

<http://ug.degroote.mcmaster.ca/forms-and-resources/missed-course-work-policy/>

* Non-Commerce students must follow the Missed Course Work protocols outlined by their home faculty and Program Office.

COURSE MODIFICATION

From time to time there may be a need to remove/add topics or to change the schedule or the delivery format. If these are necessary, you will be given as much advance notice as possible.

GENERATIVE AI

Students may freely use generative AI in this course so long as the use of generative AI is referenced and cited following citation instructions given in the syllabus. Use of generative AI outside assessment guidelines or without citation will constitute academic dishonesty. It is the student's responsibility to be clear on the expectations for citation and reference and to do so

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity. **It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty.**

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: "Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty"), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the [Academic Integrity Policy](https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/university-policies-procedures-%20guidelines/), located at <https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/university-policies-procedures-%20guidelines/>

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

- plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which other credit has been obtained.
- improper collaboration in group work.
- copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

AUTHENTICITY/PLAGIARISM DETECTION

Some courses may use a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal authenticity and ownership of student submitted work. For courses using such software, students will be expected to submit their work electronically either directly to Turnitin.com or via an online learning platform (e.g. Avenue to Learn, etc.) using plagiarism detection (a service supported by Turnitin.com) so it can be checked for academic dishonesty.

Students who do not wish their work to be submitted through the plagiarism detection software must inform the Instructor before the assignment is due. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to the plagiarism detection software. **All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld** (e.g., on-line search, other software, etc.). For more details about McMaster's use of Turnitin.com please go to www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

COURSES WITH AN ON-LINE ELEMENT

Some courses may use on-line elements (e.g. e-mail, Avenue to Learn, TopHat, LearnLink, web pages, capa, Moodle, ThinkingCap, etc.). Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of a course using these elements, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in a course that uses on-line elements will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS

As a McMaster student, you have the right to experience, and the responsibility to demonstrate, respectful and dignified interactions within all of our living, learning and working communities. These expectations are described in the [Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities](#) (the "Code"). All students share the responsibility of maintaining a positive environment for the academic and personal growth of all McMaster community members, **whether in person or online**.

It is essential that students be mindful of their interactions online, as the Code remains in effect in virtual learning environments. The Code applies to any interactions that adversely affect, disrupt, or interfere with reasonable participation in University activities. Student disruptions or behaviours that interfere with university functions on online platforms (e.g. use of Avenue 2 Learn, TopHat, WebEx or Zoom for delivery), will be taken very seriously and will be investigated. Outcomes may include restriction or removal of the involved students' access to these platforms.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities who require academic accommodation must contact [Student Accessibility Services](#) (SAS) at 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or sas@mcmaster.ca to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. For further information, consult McMaster University's [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#) policy.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION FOR RELIGIOUS, INDIGENOUS OR SPIRITUAL OBSERVANCES (RISO)

Students requiring academic accommodation based on religious, indigenous or spiritual observances should follow the procedures set out in the [RISO](#) policy. Students should submit their request to their Faculty Office **normally within 10 working days** of the beginning of term in which they anticipate a need for accommodation or to the Registrar's Office prior to their examinations. Students should also contact their instructors as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements for classes, assignments, and tests.

COPYRIGHT AND RECORDING

Students are advised that lectures, demonstrations, performances, and any other course material provided by an instructor include copyright protected works. The Copyright Act and copyright law protect every original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic work, **including lectures** by University instructors.

The recording of lectures, tutorials, or other methods of instruction may occur during course. Recording may be done by either the instructor for the purpose of authorized distribution, or by a student for the purpose of personal study. Students should be aware that their voice and/or image may be recorded by others during the class. Please speak with the instructor if this is a concern for you.

EXTREME CIRCUMSTANCES

The University reserves the right to change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances (e.g., severe weather, labour disruptions, etc.). Changes will be communicated through regular McMaster communication channels, such as McMaster Daily News, Avenue to Learn and/or McMaster email.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COURSE POLICIES

Your enrolment in Commerce 1GR0 will be considered to be an implicit acknowledgement of the course policies outlined above, or of any other that may be announced during lecture and/or on A2L. **It is your responsibility to read this course outline, to familiarize yourself with the course policies and to act accordingly.**

Lack of awareness of the course policies **cannot be invoked** at any point during this course for failure to meet them. It is your responsibility to ask for clarification on any policies that you do not understand.

COURSE SCHEDULE

**Commerce 1GR0
DeGroote Student Experience and Development I
2024-25 Course Schedule**

Week of	Virtual Class & Tutorials	Evaluation	Due Dates
1: Sept 2 – Sept 8	DeGroote School of Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation • Quiz 	Sunday, Sept 8 11:59pm
2: Sept 9 – Sept 15	Tutorial 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation • Assignment 1 	Sunday, Sept 15 11:59pm
3: Sept 16 – Sept 22	Learning to Learn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation • Quiz 	Sunday, Sept 22 11:59pm
4: Sept 23 – Sept 29	Tutorial 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation • Assignment 2 	Sunday, Sept 30 11:59pm
5: Sept 30 – Oct 6	Building Resilience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflection1 	Sunday, Oct 6 11:59pm
6: Oct 7 – Oct 13	Tutorial 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation • Assignment 3 	Sunday, Oct 20 11:59pm
7: Oct 14 – Oct 20	MID-TERM RECESS		
8: Oct 21 – Oct 27	EDI & Information Literacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation • Quiz 	Sunday, Oct 27 11:59pm
9: Oct 28 – Nov 3	Artificial Intelligence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation • Quiz 	Sunday, Nov 3 11:59pm
10: Nov 4 – Nov 10	Tutorial 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation • Assignment 4 	Sunday, Nov 10 11:59pm
11: Nov 11 – Nov 17	PowerPoint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation • Quiz 	Sunday, Nov 17 11:59pm
12: Nov 18 – Nov 24	Tutorial 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation • Assignment 5 	Sunday, Nov 24 11:59pm
13: Nov 25 – Dec 1	We Made It!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation • Reflection 2 • Career Activity 1 	Sunday, Dec 1 11:59pm

Week	Virtual Class & Tutorials	Evaluation	Due Dates
1: Jan 6 – Jan 12	Working in Groups & Tutorial 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation • Quiz 	Sunday, Jan 12 11:59pm
2: Jan 13 – Jan 19	Presentation Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation • Assignment 6: The 24-Hour Case 	Saturday, Jan 19
3: Jan 20 – Jan 26	Tutorial - 24-Hour Case (Debrief)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation • Assignment 7 	Sunday, Jan 26 11:59pm
4: Jan 27 – Feb 2	Communicating in Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation • Quiz 	Sunday, Feb 2 11:59pm
5: Feb 3 – Feb 9	Tutorial 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation • Reflection 3 	Sunday, Feb 9 11:59pm
6: Feb 10 – Feb 16	Problem Solving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation • Quiz 	Sunday, Feb 16 11:59pm
7: Feb 17 – Feb 23	MID-TERM RECESS		
8: Feb 24 – Mar 2	Tutorial 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation • Assignment 8 	Sunday, Mar 2 11:59pm
9: Mar 3 – Mar 9	Excel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation • Quiz 	Sunday, Mar 9 11:59pm
10: Mar 10 – Mar 16	Tutorial 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation • Assignment 9 	Sunday, Mar 16 11:59pm
11: Mar 17 – Mar 23	Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation • Quiz 	Sunday, Mar 23 11:59pm
12: Mar 24 – Mar 30	Tutorial 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation • Assignment 10 	Sunday, Mar 30 11:59pm
13: Mar 31 – Apr 6	We Made It!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation • Reflection 4 • Career Activity 2 	Sunday, Apr 6 11:59pm