

Commerce 2GR0
DeGroote Student Experience & Development II
Fall 2025 Course Outline

DeGroote School of Business
McMaster University

COURSE INFORMATION

This course builds on COMMERCE 1GR0 A/B and continues to provide experiential activities for students to develop (or enhance) and apply foundational knowledge of highly sought skills in the workplace such as critical thinking, collaboration, communication and self-management. Further, this course offers career development tools and learning experiences that facilitate students' success in the Business Program and their careers. Students will gain strategies for academic success, and knowledge of the various services and opportunities available to them within the university.

INSTRUCTOR AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Dr. Anita Boey
Instructor
boeya@mcmaster.ca
Office Hours:
By appointment

Student Teaching Assistants (TAs)
To be introduced during the first tutorial.

Course website: <http://www.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

IMPORTANT LINKS

- [Mosaic](#)
- [Avenue to Learn](#)
- [Student Accessibility Services - Accommodations](#)
- [McMaster University Library](#)

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Through the completion of a semester-long entrepreneurship group project, this course supports skill development in the areas of teamwork, persuasive communication, problem solving, career exploration, and leadership development.

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

Teamwork

- Identify own strengths and understand how a diversity of strengths contributes to an effective team.
- Understand how groups and teams function across time.
- Effectively give and receive feedback within a team.

Persuasive Communication

- Understand your audience and effectively communicate your vision.

Problem Solving

- Identify problems throughout stages of the business/entrepreneurship lifecycle.
- Understand how to leverage mentorship networks and ask effective questions.

Career Exploration

- Identify and practice different areas of business.

Leadership Development

- Describe how individuals come to be seen as leaders in teams.
- Assess your own leadership behaviour in teams and leadership growth across the term.

REQUIRED MATERIALS AND TEXTS

There are no required readings for this course.

Digital Applications/Accounts

This course will make use of technology. **These tools are free for DeGroote and McMaster students.**

1. **Avenue to Learn:** All course information, required materials, general announcements, and other resources you will need will be included in the course Avenue shell. To access your course, go to [Avenue to Learn](#).
2. **Top Hat:** Participation in the 2GR0 Large Classes will be tracked on Top Hat, which is free for DeGroote students. Students will receive an email sent to their McMaster email address inviting them to join the course. If you already have a Top Hat account, you will receive a reminder to enroll in the course.

Technology Support Note: Please contact technical support of the respective platform if you experience an issue with an external digital tool. Your TAs may not be equipped to troubleshoot technical problems, but should be kept updated of any issues that cannot be quickly resolved, so that it can be determined whether it is an individual issue, or a system-wide problem affecting multiple students. The list of technical support links/contact information is posted on Avenue.

CLASS FORMAT

This is an in-person course with 2-hour core class sections and 2-hour tutorials on alternating weeks (see course schedule below). Core class sections will include guest speakers, mini-lessons, and in-class assignments to provide students with the necessary information to complete the final course deliverable. Tutorials will provide students with guided activities to progress toward the deliverable, as well as receive feedback from TAs, peers, and mentors.

COURSE EVALUATION

This is a pass/fail course. To pass this course, students are required to:

- 1) Achieve at least 50% in the In-Class Participation Assignments Grade Category; AND
- 2) Achieve at least 50% in the In-Tutorial Participation Assignments Grade Category; AND
- 3) Achieve at least 50% in the Reflection Assignments Grade Category; AND
- 4) Achieve at least 50% in the GR0wth Venture Product/Service Entrepreneurship Assignment*

**Passing the GR0wth Venture Product/Service Entrepreneurship Assignment Module requires attendance at the 2GR0wth Venture Showcase on November 26th, 28th, 2.30pm-4.20pm (location TBA). Please block this off on your calendars now. Students with approved reasons for missing the 2GR0wth Venture Showcase will be provided an individual assignment to complete. More details will be provided during the class.*

COURSE DELIVERABLES

GRADE COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION
In-Class Participation (Group & Individual)	7 in-class mini-assignments (4 group; 3 individual)
In-Tutorial Participation (Group & Individual)	6 in-tutorial assignments (3 group; 3 individual)
Reflection Assignments (Individual)	5 individual reflections
GR0wth Venture Showcase Assignments (Group & Individual)	5 assignments (3 group; 2 individual)

Grade Category 1: In-Class Participation Assignments

In-class participation will be assessed through completion and submission of in-class mini-assignments. These assignments will be completed individually or in groups during CLASS on alternating weeks and must be submitted by the end of class to receive full marks.

WEEK	WEIGHT	ASSIGNMENT	EVALUATION TYPE
1	10%	Course Syllabus Scavenger Hunt	Group
1	10%	Questions for Entrepreneur Guest Speaker	Group
2	10%	Brainstorm of solutions for EIR's challenge	Individual
4	20%	CPD Deliverable	Individual
6	20%	GR0wth Venture product/service worksheet	Group
8	20%	Guest Speaker Learnings	Group
10	10%	Reviewing skills from first-year marketing	Individual

Grade Category 2: In-Tutorial Participation Assignments

In-tutorial participation will be assessed through completion and submission of in-tutorial mini-assignments. These assignments will be completed individually or in groups during TUTORIAL on alternating weeks and must be submitted before the next tutorial for full marks.

WEEK	WEIGHT	ASSIGNMENT	EVALUATION TYPE
3	10%	Group Enrollment & Photo Challenge	Group
5	20%	Group Charter	Group
7	20%	Questions for Entrepreneur Guest Speaker	Group
9	15%	Peer Feedback	Individual
11	10%	Week 7 Pitch Reflection	Group
12	25%	Leadership Survey (Pre-work for Tutorial 13)	Individual

Grade Category 3: Reflection Assignments

Throughout the term you will complete a number of reflection assignments to document your growth:

WEEK	WEIGHT	ASSIGNMENT	EVALUATION TYPE
1	10%	Letter to Your Future Self	Individual
3	15%	Superpower Reflection	Individual
13	25%	Letter from Your Past Self Reflection	Individual
13	25%	2GR0 Reflection	Individual
13	25%	Leadership Survey Results Reflection	Individual

Grade Category 4: GR0wth Venture Product/Service Entrepreneurship Assignment

Throughout the term in 2GR0, you will be working with your group to create a prototype to present at the end-of-term GR0wth Venture Showcase. There are a series of assignments throughout the term to help your group prepare that you will receive feedback on from peers, TAs, mentors, and Venture Showcase judges:

WEEK	WEIGHT	ASSIGNMENT	EVALUATION TYPE
5	10%	Niche Finder: Showcase Product/Service Brainstorm	Group
7	10%	Summary of Gallery Walk Peer Feedback	Group
9	19%	Mentor Feedback on Prototype Passport	Group
11	10%	Pitch & Summary of Gallery Walk Peer Feedback – Part 2	Group
12	51%	GR0wth Venture Showcase Presentation	Group

Exam

There is no midterm or final exam for this course.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Since 2GR0 is a zero-unit course, it has been intentionally designed so that the majority of assignments can be completed during class and tutorial time. Therefore, in-class and in-tutorial work will NOT be accepted after the end time of the class or tutorial. This includes group work related to the Experiential Activity.

For the Leadership Survey completion and any asynchronous deliverables, there is a 10% penalty for every day or partial day that an assignment is submitted late, for up to three (3) calendar days. The number of days late will be determined by the due date stated in the course outline. After three (3) calendar days past the deliverable due date, a mark of zero (0) will be given for the submission.

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.

Your TA should be your first point of contact. In your emails, please state in the title the following details: "2GR0 - Tutorial Section – Subject of Email".

Emails regarding course issues should NOT be sent to the Area Administrative Assistants. 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.

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/>

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

SOME USE PERMITTED

Students may use generative AI for [editing/translating/outlining/brainstorming/revising/etc] their work throughout the 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 the stated use of [editing/translating/outlining/brainstorming/revising/etc] without citation will constitute academic dishonesty. It is the student's responsibility to be clear on the limitations for use and to be clear on the expectations for citation and reference and to do so appropriately.

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](#).

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, Top Hat, web pages 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, usernames 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, 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 a 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 2GR0 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 2GR0
DeGroote Student Experience and Development II
Fall 2025 Course Schedule

WEEK	CLASS TYPE	TOPIC(S)	CONTENT	DELIVERABLE(S)	ASSESSMENT TYPE
1 Sept 1-5	Class	Intro to 2GR0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Course Expectations GR0 Journey and Roadmap CPD link 	Course Syllabus Scavenger Hunt	Group (completion)
				Questions for Entrepreneur Guest Speaker	Group (completion)
				Letter to Your Future Self	Individual (completion)
2 Sept 8-12	Class	Project Kick-off: What is Entrepreneurship ?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Venture Assignment Overview EIR Guest Speaker MCCD Hubs Introduction 	Brainstorm of Solutions for EIR's Challenge	Individual (completion)
3 Sept 15-19	Tutorial	Teams (team life cycle) and Group Formation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group Stages Model and Punctuated Equilibrium Model 	Group Enrollment & Photo Challenge	Group (completion)
				Superpower Reflection	Individual (completion)
4 Sept 22-26	Class	Effective Start-ups (business lifecycle)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizational Structure and Alignment/Fit Functional Business Areas CPD Alumni Panel CPA Ontario 	CPD Deliverable	Individual (feedback)
5 Sept 29-Oct 3	Tutorial	Group Charters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group Charters Market Niches 	Group Charter	Group (completion)
				Niche Finder: Showcase Product/Service Brainstorm	Group (feedback)

6 Oct 6-10	Class	Design Thinking & Problem Solving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Product/Service Development How to operationalize your idea into a start-up (Dr. Shane Saunderson) Mission Statements for your Venture Lyons New Media Introduction 	GR0wth Venture Product/Service worksheet	Group (feedback)
Reading Week (Oct 13-17)					
7 Oct 20-24	Tutorial	Developing Your Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sense Making (Dr. Shane Saunderson) Communicating your Idea Giving and Receiving Feedback 	Summary of Gallery Walk peer feedback	Group (feedback)
				Questions for Entrepreneur Guest Speaker	Group (completion)
8 Oct 27-31	Class	Entrepreneurship: Revisited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guest Speaker (EIR) Value Proposition, Cost Structure, Risk, How to Measure Success 	Guest Speaker Learnings	Group (completion)
9 Nov 3-7	Tutorial	Prototyping & Mentorship (Mid-Point Check-in)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Venture Idea Feedback (Feedback from TAs, MBA mentors, CPD, Hub leaders) 	Mentor Feedback on Prototype Passport	Group (completion)
				Peer Feedback Assignment	Individual (completion)
10 Nov 10-14	Class	Persuasive Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding your Audience and Effectively Communicating your Vision (Dr. Chris Ling) Professional Communication Workshop (CPD) 	Reviewing Skills from First-Year Marketing	Individual (completion)
11 Nov 17-21	Tutorial	Pitching	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pitches 	Week 7 Pitch Reflection	Group (completion)
				Pitch & Summary of	Group (completion)

				Gallery Walk Peer Feedback – Part 2	
12 Nov 24-28	Class	GR0wth Venture Showcase & Celebration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presenting your Venture to a Panel of Judges 	GR0wth Venture Showcase Presentation	Group Showcase Presentation (competition, feedback)
				Leadership survey (Pre-work for Tutorial 13)	Individual (Leadership survey results to come in Tutorial 13)
13 Dec 1-5	Asynchronous	Reflection & Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leadership Survey & Report Reflection on your Growth in 2GR0 	2GR0 Reflection	Individual (Feedback)
				Leadership Survey Results Reflection	Individual (completion)
				Letter from Your Past Self Reflection	Individual (completion)