



Integrated Business and Humanities

Annual Report 2025-2026



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Introduction

This past year we made some carefully considered changes to the courses required as part of the IBH learning journey. These changes arise from almost two years of consultations with students, alumni, and faculty. It has meant listening to students in townhall sessions, consulting representatives on the IBH subcommittee, and countless conversations in hallways, classrooms, and IBH events. It was validated by an extensive quality assurance process supported by external reviewers.

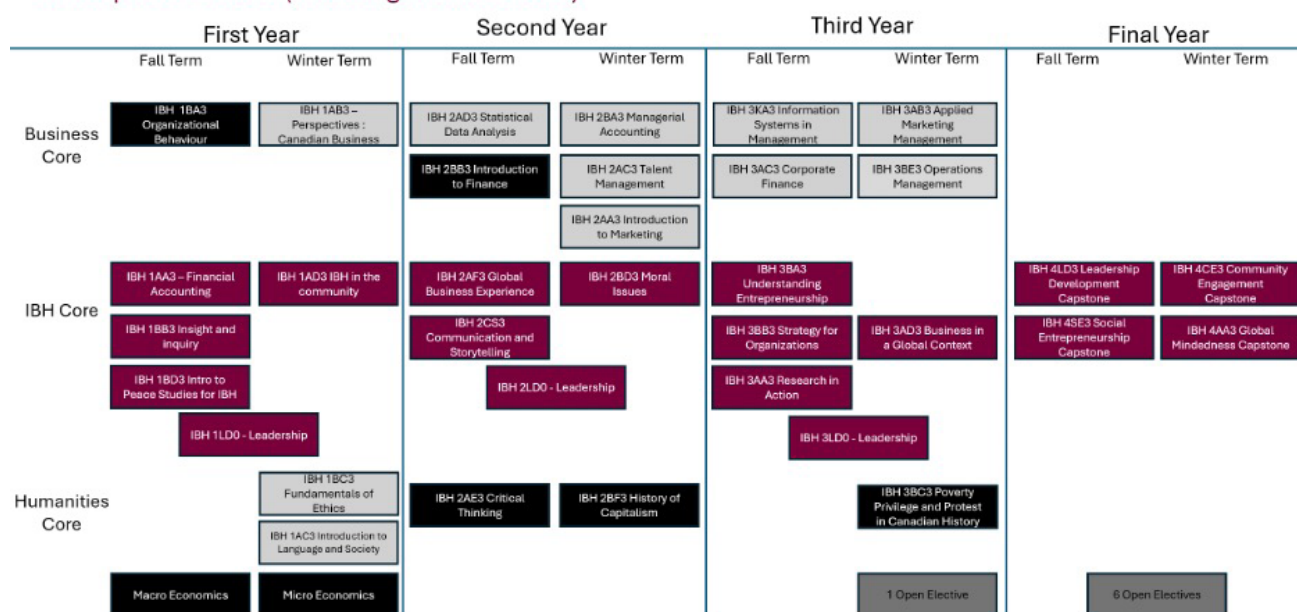
The highlights of these changes to the IBH program include:

- There are now four capstone courses in the final year, one for each of the four pillars of social entrepreneurship, global mindedness, community engagement, and leadership.
- The two communications courses previously in 3rd year are now one IBH 2CS3 Communication and Storytelling in 2nd year to provide students with writing and presenting skills earlier in the program.
- Relationship management in 3rd year is now IBH 3AA3 Research in Action that provides a focus on ethical research relevant to social change and justice.
- A new course, IBH 3AD3 Business in a Global Context closes knowledge gaps in international business and supports the global mindedness pillar.
- While not new this past year, the diagram also shows the LD0 leadership courses that provide students with leadership workshops and one-on-one leadership coaching.

Below is a figure showing the updated IBH Learning journey. You will notice that the diagram is divided into core business courses and core humanities courses; those courses taught similarly in comparable business and humanities courses. The McMaster maroon highlight IBH core courses and are the courses primarily responsible for delivering the four pillars of the program and the unique IBH experience. Black rectangles represent where IBH students take courses alongside business and humanities students.

The IBH Learning Journey

36 required courses (including 3 LD0 courses)

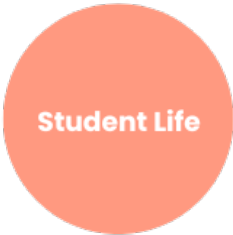


Direction and focus in 2025–2026

Priorities in 2025–2026 included developing maturity models that map student learning related to each of the four pillars of the program. This allows instructors and students to better understand their learning journey over the four years of the program.

Alongside these maturity models, we focused on making targeted changes to the curriculum including moving courses to different points in the program, consolidating courses, adding in new courses, and redesigning courses to enhance learning.

Student activities foster community, growth, and social engagement in IBH, enhancing experience and complementing academic learning.



Identifying the best students that will thrive in the intense IBH program and who are well suited to take IBH learnings into their careers.

Finding ways to invigorate our alumni, continuing to engage them with the University and the IBH program.



Continue to evolve the curriculum and the program to enhance alignment with our four principles of global mindedness, community engagement, social enterprise and leadership.

Ensure that the voice of faculty, students and alumni are heard and that the program evolves according to the needs and wishes of key stakeholders.



Administrative functions that maintain the structure and organization of an academic program.

Once again, we have the privilege to reflect on a great year in the IBH community at DeGroote.

I am entering my fifth year as the IBH program director, and I have been thinking a lot about what it means for the IBH program to grow and mature.

Since we operate a cohort, our goal is not necessarily to grow our student population. Despite that, IBH welcomed its largest cohort in 2024/2025 at 73 and will be welcoming our second largest cohort of 62 new IBH students in the Fall of 2026. We also continue to grow our alumni base every year, placing students in exciting roles across for-profit and social purpose sectors and toward master's programs and further education.

Maturity is a little harder to pin down. For me, maturity means gaining confidence as a program in who we are and what we value. It also means enhancing how we prepare IBH students for the world they will enter by strengthening their learning journey.

Over the past couple of years, the IBH program administration has spent considerable time examining the IBH curriculum. Through formal program review processes, conversations with students, and many hours of discussion, we have been asking ourselves how to strengthen the IBH experience.

The result was a series of curriculum changes that are being rolled out to IBH students and highlighted above in the introduction to this annual report.

One of the most exciting developments is the formalization of a distinct capstone experience for each of the four IBH pillars of social entrepreneurship, community engagement, leadership, and global mindedness. These capstones provide an opportunity for IBH students to both demonstrate their understanding of each pillar and cement their learning by bringing it all together.

We have also strengthened key skill development. First in communications by offering earlier in the program a substantially updated IBH 2CS3 Communication and Storytelling course and second in terms of research skills through the redesign of IBH 3AA3 Research in Action. The new course places a stronger emphasis on ethical research practices and equips students with tools to investigate questions related to social change, equity, and justice – capabilities that are becoming increasingly important in a world where information is abundant, but judgment remains essential.

We are also introducing IBH 3AD3 Business in a Global Context, a course designed to strengthen students' understanding of international business and the complexities of operating across cultural, political, and economic boundaries.

Beyond curriculum changes, the IBH community continues to thrive both at DeGroote and beyond. Our third annual IBH pinning ceremony featured many alumni returning to pin their mentees. Look this year for a new alumni committee to form that aims to keep IBH alumni connected with each other and with the IBH program.

As you read through this report, I hope you will see evidence not only of what happened this year, but also of where the program is headed.

Thank you for being part of the journey.



Brent McKnight
IBH Program Director

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brent McKnight". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Brent" being more prominent and the last name "McKnight" following in a similar style.

Program Highlights

PROG HIGHL

Course Highlights

Awards and Recognition

People of IBH

RAM IGHTS

Course Offerings and Instructors

Fall 2025

First Year

- **Financial Accounting (1AA3)**
Emad Mohammad
- **Organizational Behaviour (1BA3)**
Teal McAteer
- **Insight and Inquiry: Examining Ourselves and the World around Us (1BB3)**
Alpha Abebe
- **Fundamentals of Ethics (1BC3)**
Kerry O'Neill
- **Leadership Development: Self Awareness (1LD0A)**
Corrin Whiteway

Second Year

- **Statistical Data Analysis (2AD3)**
Berk Gorgulu
- **Critical Thinking (2AE3)**
Alex Leferman
- **Global Business Experience (2AF3)**
Benson Honig
- **Introduction to Finance (2BB3)**
Sumit Bose
- **History of Capitalism (2BF3)**
John Charles Weaver
- **Leadership Development: Leadership Emergence (2LD0A)**
Corrin Whiteway

Third Year

- **Research in Action: Social Change (3AA3)**
Alpha Abebe
- **Corporate Finance (3AC3)**
Waquar Ahmad
- **Understanding Entrepreneurship (3BA3)**
Ryan Moran
- **Organizational Strategy (3BB3)**
Brent McKnight
- **Interpersonal Communication (3BD3)**
Jeffrey Donison
- **Leadership Development: Leadership Effectiveness (3LD0A)**
Corrin Whiteway

Fourth Year

- **Global Mindedness Capstone (4AA3)**
Lalai Abbas
- **Leadership Development: Leadership Capstone (4LD3)**
Yair Berson
- **Social Entrepreneurship Capstone (4SE3)**
Maryam Mohiuddin Ahmed

Winter 2026

First Year

- **Perspectives on Canadian Business** (1AB3)
Rita Cossa
- **Introduction to Language and Society** (1AC3)
Nikolai Penner
- **Introduction to Peace Studies for IBH,** (1AD3)
Nancy Doubleday
- **Leadership Development: Self Awareness,** (1LD0B)
Corrin Whiteway

Second Year

- **Introduction to Marketing** (2AA3)
Chris Ling
- **Information Systems in Management** (2AB3)
Thomas Francescutti
- **Talent Management** (2AC3)
Anjali Chawla
- **Managerial Accounting** (2BA3)
Emad Mohammad
- **Moral Issues** (2BD3)
Johannes Steizinger
- **Leadership Development: Leadership Emergence** (2LD0B)
Corrin Whiteway

Third Year

- **Applied Marketing Management** (3AB3)
Marvin Ryder
- **Cross-Cultural Communication** (3AD3)
Thanuja Thananayagam
- **Poverty, Privilege and Protest in Canadian History** (3BC3)
Max Dagenais
- **Operations Management** (3BE3)
Renata Lissa Soares da Silva Guidi
- **Leadership Development: Leadership Effectiveness** (3LD0B)
Corrin Whiteway

Fourth Year

- **Community Engagement Capstone** (4CE3)
Cathy Grise

People of IBH

IBH Leadership



Brent McKnight
Program Director



Brenton Barnaby
Senior Recruitment
Officer



Emad Mohammad
Program Founder



Sarah Bennett
Program
Administrator



Corrin Whiteway
Leadership
Development
Program Coordinator



Greg Rombough
Manager,
Undergraduate
Programs

IBH Student Subcommittee

The IBH Student Subcommittee is a vital connection between IBH leadership and the student population. Monthly meetings provide students with a platform to voice their opinion, influence decision-making, and take ownership of events and activities within the IBH program. The Subcommittee relies on student engagement and ensures that the diverse needs and priorities of each cohort are addressed. The subcommittee also plays a leadership role by creating cohort-specific social events to strengthen their cohort community!

This year, level I students joined the committee starting in September instead of January. This provided them with extra opportunities to engage with upper-year students on the committee and to gain valuable insights from their experiences.

We would like to acknowledge our 2025–2026 IBH Subcommittee members below:

- Nanki Bains (Level I)
- Hamza Khokhawala (Level I)
- Islay Adamson (Level II)
- Cassie Ruan (Level II)
- Joshua Bakermann (Level III)
- Julia Papasoutiriou (Level III)
- Elijah Wilson (Level IV)
- Alia Meghari (Level IV)

IBH Mentorship Committee

The IBH Mentorship Committee is responsible for planning and executing the IBH Mentorship Program, which pairs lower-level students with upper-year mentors, and upper-year students with IBH alumni. These cross-cohort connections are vital to community building in the IBH program.

We would like to acknowledge our student leaders who served on the IBH Mentorship Committee in 2025–2026:

- Alessia Garcia (Level II)
- Jason Comeau (Level II)
- Cassie Ruan (Level II)
- Aisha Janathanan (Level III)
- Parnion Ghazali (Level III)
- Serena Sooknanan (Level IV)

IBH Operating Committee

The IBH Operating Committee is a decision-making body composed of members from both the faculties of Business and Humanities. This year, two upper year IBH students joined the committee to provide student perspectives and insights. This committee is responsible for providing guidance on the program's strategic direction and development. Chaired by Brent McKnight in 2025–2026, the Committee members included:

- Teal McAteer (Business)
- Rita Cossa (Business)
- Chris Ling (Business)
- Alpha Abebe (Humanities)
- Karen Balcom (Humanities)
- Elijah Wilson (IBH Student – Level IV)
- Alia Meghari (IBH Student – Level IV)

New and Retiring Staff/Faculty

Our IBH community extends its appreciation to the staff and faculty who joined or retired from the program during the 2025–2026 academic year.

Warm Welcome to:



Sarah Bennett,
New Program Administrator



Brenton Barnaby
Senior Recruitment
Officer



Nancy Doubleday
Faculty of Humanities and IBH
IBD3 Instructor. Nancy was an
original member of the IBH
teaching team.

Special thanks to:



Benson Honig & Khalid Naina,
For their years of service teaching in the IBH
program. Both were original members of the
IBH teaching team.



Heather Walton,
Congratulations to Heather Walton and her husband James on
the birth of Maxwell this past spring. Heather will be moving to a
new role as an Academic Advisor when she returns from maternity
leave. Heather was the IBH Program Administrator

Student Awards and Recognition

Student Awards & Scholarships

IBH students and alumni have been recognized for their impressive accomplishments over the past year. We recognize those who have received prestigious awards by listing their contributions here:

The University (Senate) Scholarships

- Meghan Duivesteyen
- Wonu Adelusi

The William G. Carter Scholarship in Golf

- Kaylee Jeon

The DeGroote School of Business Scholarships

- Leah Minkovich

The Provost's Honour Roll Medal

- Leah Minkovich

The Robert Alan Kennedy Scholarship

- Leah Minkovich

The DeGroote School of Business Alumni Undergraduate Scholarship

- Avery Tedesco

McMaster University Investor Analyst Fellowship

Kevin A. Lockhart Scholarship

- Hamza Khokhawala

Recognition

- Equity & Empowerment Scholarship, DeGroote Commerce Society
- Hamza Khokhawala
- Canadian Marketing League Finalist, Top 9 in Canada
- Ashni Pandita



Recognition (continued)

- Equity & Empowerment Scholarship, DeGroote Commerce Society
- Hamza Khokhawala
- Canadian Marketing League Finalist, Top 9 in Canada
- Ashni Pandita
- 2nd Place – Debits & Credits Case Competition, DeGroote Accounting Association
- Soloman Ruan
- Rohan Swan
- 1st Place – International Asian Markets Case Competition, DeGroote Asian Student Association,
- Soloman Ruan
- Rohan Swan
- Hamza Khokhawala
- Priyanshi Bhardwaj

Clubs and Committees

Though IBH students make up a small percentage of overall commerce students, we are proud to have such an impactful representation on DeGroote clubs and committees. Discover our IBH student leaders!

DeGroote Commerce Society Executive Team

Below are the IBH students who served on the DeGroote Commerce Society (DCS) Executive Team:

- Wadh-Ha Mutabazi, **Vice President of Advocacy**
- Aarthi Thommandram, **Vice President of Technology**
- Harsh Shah, **Vice President of External**
- Caitlin McGill, **Vice President of Human Resources**
- Morgan Hughes, **Vice President of Marketing**
- Hamza Khokhawala, **Director of Corporate Relations**
- Islay Adamson, **Director of Human Resources**
- Andrea Penheiro, **Communications Director of Marketing**
- Ava Nouri, **Director of Yearbook**
- Monica Morcos, **Presidential Executive Intern**
- Jasmeet Bhandal, **Communications Executive**
- Laurel Yates, **Event Coordinator**
- Joshua Bakermann, **Brand Officer**
- Simrah Khan, **First Year Council**
- Solomon Ruan, **First Year Council**

First Year Council Case Competition

First Year Council (FYC) is an experiential leadership opportunity for first year students within the DeGroote Commerce Society. IBH students, Simrah Khan and Solomon Ruan, were members of the FYC and integral in the development of the inaugural FYC Case Competition.

The FYC Case Competition was a low-stakes case competition garnered towards first and second years with little to no experience in case competition settings. The format focused on judge feedback loops that allowed participants to gain valuable insight and advice into their presentation skills. It will now be an annual event hosted by future first year councils.

Student Awards and Recognition

DeGroote Law Association

Below are the IBH students who served on the DeGroote Law Association (DLA) Executive Team:

- Parnion Ghazali, **Vice President**
- Malak Al-Tikriti, **Co-Director of External Affairs**
- Raniya Chowdhury, **Co-Director of External Affairs**
- Samantha Cutone, **Director of Financial Affairs**

DeGroote Pride Association

Below are the IBH students who served on the DeGroote Pride Association (DPA) Executive Team:

- Ela Murray, **President**
- Lindsey Chapman, **Director External**

DeGroote Women in Business

Below is the IBH student who served on the DeGroote Women in Business (DWIB) Executive Team:

- Abby Smith, **President**

DeGroote Impact

Below are the IBH students who served on the DeGroote Impact Executive Team:

- Qiucheng Chen, **Co-Chair**
- Neha Kazi, **Director of External Affairs**
- Colin Pyne, **Director of Operations**
- Hamza Khokhawala, **Director of Research & Advocacy**

Greensuits

Greensuits are the official Welcome Week team for the DeGroote School of Business. They help to support and lead first-year students as they transition into university life through mentorship, engaging events and fostering an inclusive community.

Below are the IBH students who served as members of the Lead Team:

- Charlotte Jury, **First Year Experience Coordinator**
- Fatima Gohar, **Partnership Development Strategist**

Received an award or have a big accomplishment to share?

Let us know by filling out this [form](#)

Jeux de Commerce Central (JDCC) Champions

[Jeux du Commerce Central](#) (JDCC) is the largest undergraduate business school competition in Central Canada, held annually in the Winter term. In 2026 we made history and brought home School of the Year for the fourth year in a row. IBH continues to make a remarkable impact on JDCC. We extend our congratulations to the following members for their contributions:

- Kellie Stevenson, **Co-Captain**
- Alyssa Burnett, **Vice-President Academic**
- Andrew Coulter, **Vice-President Academic**
- Olivia Stregger, **Vice-President Engagement**
- Jonathan Jeyapalan, **Vice-President Social**
- Lauren Mortimer, **Vice-President Incubator**
- Billy Radman, **Vice-President Partnerships**
- Joshua Bakermann, **Vice-President Engagement**
- Jason Comeau, **Accounting Delegate**
- Madie Hutfloetz, **Accounting Delegate**
- Anika Patel, **Business Strategy Delegate**
- Caitlin McGill, **Human Resources Delegate**
- Abi Sathiaselalan, **Human Resources Delegate**
- Sophie Banwell, **Vice-President Debate**
- Harsh Shah, **Debate Delegate**
- Fatima Gohar, **Debate Delegate**
- Mylene Prior, **Debate Delegate**
- Gabby Ephrem, **Social Delegate**
- Aisha Mahmoud, **Vice-President Athletics**
- Cameron Ecclestone, **Vice-President Athletics**
- Laura Wilson, **Athletics Delegate**
- Nolan McIntee, **Athletics Delegate**
- Maya Pennell, **Athletics Delegate**
- Gabby Rusch, **Athletics Delegate**
- Arlene Dosen, **Competition Volunteer**



Course Highlights



Hike Through Cootes

4AA3 Global Mindedness Capstone, Lalai Abbas

For the Global mindedness Capstone (IBH 4AA3), Walk Through Cootes, was organized to provide students with an experiential learning opportunity at Cootes Paradise, the Royal Botanical Gardens' largest and most biodiverse sanctuary. The goal of the activity was to foster and enact self and global awareness (self-in-relation to others) through relational, collective, and experiential learning. As students walked along Caleb's Walk and the Ravine Road Trail, they experienced ocular, aural, and kinesthetic benefits of being immersed in nature while developing a greater awareness of their interconnectedness with the more-than-human world.



The embodied learning experience encouraged the students to reflect on the mutual interdependence and symbiosis between humans and the natural environment (non-human others), using these observations as a starting point of their situated reflection on the relationship between business, sustainability, and ecological responsibility. Students considered the implications of extractive and unethical business practices and explored the role of future leaders in stewarding, preserving, and giving back to the natural world. By connecting classroom learning with direct experience, Walk Through Cootes reinforced the importance of collaborative leadership, environmental stewardship, assemblage thinking and global-minded decision-making.



Course Highlights

Decolonizing Research

3AA3 Research in Action: Social Change, Alpha Abebe

In this course, students engaged critically with the question of what it means to decolonize research methodologies. Drawing on scholars such as Margaret Kovach, Ellen Centime Zeleke, and the work of the Jane Finch Community Research Partnership, the class examined how colonial legacies continue to shape whose knowledge is legitimized within academic institutions, and explored nonmainstream epistemological frameworks, such as Kovach's relational approach to Indigenous methodologies and Zeleke's concept of Tizita, as alternatives to Western research paradigms. Students discussed the OCAP principles (Ownership, Control, Access, and Possession) and considered concrete models of community accountability, such as the research protocols developed with the Jane Finch community in Toronto, as examples of what more equitable and reciprocal research relationships can look like in practice. To close the session, students walked to McMaster's Indigenous Circle for a time of reflection on these themes, grounding the day's discussion in nature and creating space to sit with the ideas together.



Course Highlights

Patchwork Workshop

IBD3 Introduction to Peace Studies, Nancy Doubleday

As part of Introduction to Peace Studies (IBH IBD3) with Nancy Doubleday, students Anise Shrubsall, Jovin Dhinsa, Hannah Sota Yemene, Sara Shardlow, Saya Teasdale and Julia Ostrowski, designed and facilitated the Patchwork Workshop, an interactive initiative centered on identity, belonging, and community. Inspired by the symbolism of a patchwork quilt, the workshop invited participants to reflect on the experiences, values, and perspectives that shape who they are while recognizing how individual stories contribute to a stronger, more connected community. Through guided discussions and a collaborative creative activity, participants designed their own “patches,” each representing a unique aspect of their identity, which were then combined into a collective display.

The Patchwork Workshop encouraged participants to engage in meaningful conversations about diversity, empathy, and inclusion while demonstrating that differences can strengthen rather than divide communities. By combining reflection, dialogue, and creativity, the workshop transformed concepts explored in the classroom into a hands-on learning experience that fostered understanding and connection. The initiative exemplifies how student-led projects in IBH empower learners to translate academic ideas into practical experiences that create lasting social impact.





“

The Patchwork Workshop showed us that every person brings a unique perspective and story to a community. Just like individual pieces of fabric create a stronger quilt when stitched together, meaningful conversations and shared experiences help build more connected, inclusive communities.”

– Jovin Dhinsa (Level II)

Course Highlights

Four Pillar Event Series

IBH co-curricular events deepen academic learning by connecting classroom theory to real-world application. The Four Pillar Event Series—centered on global mindedness, community engagement, leadership, and social entrepreneurship—offered engaging experiences throughout 2025–2026. Each event drew strong attendance and fostered meaningful interaction across student cohorts.

Visit the DSB YouTube channel to watch our [Four Pillar playlist](#).



IBH Leadership Panel

Students attended a compelling leadership panel titled *Looking Inward: Leadership Starts with Self-Awareness* in September 2025. Moderated by LD0 instructor Corrin Whiteway, the session featured insights from Tej Sandhu, Entrepreneur in Residence at the DeGroote School of Business; Dr. Kate Whalen, PhD Leadership Coach and Strategy Consultant; and Margaret Milde, Director of Digital Fundraising at the Canadian Cancer Society. The panel encouraged students to reflect on personal values, leadership styles, and the importance of self-awareness in shaping ethical and impactful careers.



Integrated Business
& Humanities

4 Pillar Event Series | September 29 2025

Looking Inward: Leadership Starts with Self-Awareness

Moderated by LD0 Instructor, Corrin Whiteway

11:00am - 12:30pm | PGCLL M16



Tej Sandhu

Entrepreneur in
Residence
DeGroote
School of
Business



Kate Whalen

Leadership
Coach
Kate Whalen
Consulting
Professor
McMaster
University



Margaret Milde

Director of
Digital
Fundraising
Canadian
Cancer Society

IBH Movie Night

In November 2025, students gathered for IBH Movie Night at the historic Westdale Theatre to watch a screening of *Beyond Zero*. A film that explores the compelling narrative between sustainability and corporate responsibility, and ethical innovation in for-profit organizations. This event exemplified IBH's strong focus on blending business insight with social impact, encouraging students to think critically about the role of social entrepreneurship in shaping for a better future.

This event was generously made possible through the financial support of Causeworx.



IBH Fireside Chat

In March 2026, the IBH Fireside Chat featured Jeff Neven, CEO of Indwell, who talked about the importance of building community, both literally and spiritually. Moderated by final year students Alia Meghari, Kellie Stevenson, Sierra Haziza, the event led to impactful engagement and provided valuable insights into how business and community intersect, and how values-driven leadership can create meaningful social change. This event was closely connected to IBH in the Community (IBH 1AD3) and the Community Engagement Capstone (IBH 4CE3).



IBH Debate

The IBH Debate Tournament, held in March 2026 and connected to the curriculum in Moral Issues (IBH 2BD3), culminated in a compelling final round on whether artificial intelligence will make liberal democracies more, rather than less, democratic over the next decade. The winning team was comprised of Raniya Chowdhury (Level II), Deeya Sharma (Level II) and Alyssa Burnett (Level IV). Special recognition goes to Level IV students Sophie Banwell and Nathalie D'Andrea who did an incredible job organizing event for the second year in a row.



ACHIEVING IN THE IBH PRO

Program Development

EMENTS

Student Life

GRAM

Program Development

- **IQAP Quality Assurance Program**

This past year, the IBH program successfully underwent an extensive self-study and external review process. This provincially mandated review helps to ensure the program remains of the highest quality and continues to develop.

- **New Maturity Models**

Building on the definitions of the four pillars, maturity models were built to help students and instructors understand how the learning journey of students with respect to these pillars.

- **Program Curriculum Changes**

This year saw changes to the program curriculum as discussed throughout this report.

- **Stories from Students and Alumni**

Check out IBH students and alumni speaking about the four pillars and what they mean to them, their learning, and their careers.





IBH Instructor Connections

IBH instructors actively collaborate throughout the year to discuss the program through various meetings. These meetings help inform the direction of the program.

Faculty Retreat

Every May, IBH faculty come together to co-create the program through activities led by IBH Program Director Brent McKnight. These conversations help develop pedagogy, curriculum, and academic structures within the program. This year's session focused on building strategies to better enable program delivery across both faculties.

Student Life

The student life development area enriches the McMaster and IBH student experience by connecting classroom learning to out-of-class experiences through co-curricular events. Extracurricular activities further strengthen relationships within and across cohorts, fostering a sense of community that is unique to IBH.

IBH Welcome Social and First Year Team Building

Students remain enthusiastic about events that help build connections and community across cohorts. A continuous goal of the program is to establish annual traditions that students can anticipate and enjoy each year.

In 2025-2026, the program held its annual first-year team building activity and all-IBH welcome social event. Level I students participated in an afternoon of low ropes and group challenges at Altitude McMaster, designed to promote teamwork and collaboration.

Following the team building, the entire IBH community gathered for outdoor lawn games, pizza, speeches, and conversation. The event brought together over 100 attendees including current students, staff, and faculty from the IBH community!



IBH Mentorship Program

IBH celebrates another successful year of the IBH Mentorship Program. This program encourages 1:1 long-term connection within the IBH community, pairing Level I and Level II students with upper year students, who are mentored by IBH alumni. In 2025-2026, we saw 84 pairings thanks to the incredible efforts and hard work of the Mentorship Committee members Jason Comeau and Cassie Ruan.

IBH Mentorship Marketplace

Mentorship Marketplace strives to centralize knowledge resources for IBH students in the areas of academic, career and personal development. This fair-style event hosts academic advisors, career mentors, alumni, student groups, and clubs all contributing advice and mentorship in their respective areas. This event was a great introduction for first-year students to the resources available to them with DeGroote and in the greater McMaster community.



Mentorship Mingle

New in 2025, the Mentorship Committee launched the Mentorship Mingle. A new initiative that aims to bring together students and alumni in the IBH Mentorship Program to meet and get to know each other in a casual setting and build the IBH community. This year, the mingle was held at the Bridges Cafe and featured activities with small prizes to be won.

Stress Busters

In response to student interest in increased cross-cohort social opportunities, the IBH program introduced two “Stress Busters” events—one in the Fall term and one in the Winter term—timed strategically during midterm and finals periods. Designed to provide a relaxed and creative outlet, these events encouraged students to unwind through activities such as board games and crafts.



Student WhatsApp Group

In continuing this existing practice, the program launched a private WhatsApp group for incoming first-year students who accepted their offers for September 2025. This initiative fosters early connections and community among new students.

The group is managed by current IBH students. Special thanks to our IBH Mentorship Committee for supporting this initiative over the summer of 2025.



Cohort events

Our IBH Subcommittee was tasked with hosting at least one event for their cohort over the past academic year.

- Level I: Bowling at University Lanes
- Level II: Dinner at The Phoenix
- Level III: Breakfast at the Maple Leaf Pancake House
- Level IV: Dinner & Karaoke at The Phoenix and Trivia at Fairweather





IBH Spring Social

Each year, the IBH community looks forward to celebrating the end of term at our IBH Spring Social. Held at The Diplomat, this event celebrates what the four cohorts accomplished in the prior year and the graduating class. As a group, we reflect on the year's successes, listen to speeches from graduating students, and connect with faculty and students.

Recruitment Initiatives

RECRUIT

ATTNMENT

Application and Enrollment

Recruitment and Admissions

Recruitment involves identifying and attracting exceptional students who will excel in the IBH program and effectively apply their education to their future careers. It is a crucial element that ensures the program's longevity.

With the addition of Brenton Barnaby as the Senior Recruitment Officer, we have been able to better connect with prospective students, supporters, and schools to tell the IBH story.

Recruitment Initiatives

IBH Showcase: Fall Preview and May@Mac

No one understands the in-course IBH experience better than our current students. The McMaster open houses are a time for our current students to connect with prospective students to share their knowledge and experiences in the program.

The IBH Showcase takes place at each of the three open houses. Current students proudly demonstrate their projects and discuss the connection between teaching and learning in the program. Projects are rooted in the four program pillars and highlight student achievements in research and subject matter expertise.



High School Visits

With the addition of Brenton Barnaby to the Undergraduate Recruitment team, IBH has significantly broadened its national and international outreach efforts by engaging directly with students and guidance counsellors to raise awareness about the unique opportunities offered by the IBH program. Through in-person school visits and targeted outreach initiatives, we have been able to build stronger relationships with educators and prospective applicants alike, ensuring that more students—regardless of geographic location—can learn about and consider the IBH experience.

Once again, we welcomed Beyond Borders back to campus where we engaged them in a simulation on the tragedy of the commons and discussed the IBH program.



Seeds of Leadership

In November 2025, students from the IBH program held a dynamic workshop in collaboration with a group of young leaders participating in Seeds of Leadership, focused on cultivating generative conversations. Through an interactive card game designed to spark thoughtful dialogue and active listening, students explored techniques for fostering inclusive discussions and building deeper connections. The experience offered a unique blend of play and purpose, aligning with IBH's commitment to developing empathetic, socially conscious leaders equipped to navigate complex interpersonal and organizational challenges.

KIRA Talent Supplementary Interview

2025-2026 saw further refinement and re-recording of our KIRA Talent supplementary interview questions to encourage more in-depth assessments of IBH applicants. One of the standout elements of the IBH application process is the supplemental video interview, a required step for all prospective students. This six-question video series offers the admissions committee a deeper understanding of each applicant's personality, perspective, and potential fit within the program.

Special recognition goes to our IBH Review Committee of 43 upper-year students, alumni and staff for supporting our review efforts.

[Visit our YouTube channel here.](#)

IBH YouTube Channel

The IBH playlists on the DeGroote YouTube Channel continues to be a resource for prospective students to learn about the program from current students and alumni. We will continue to update this page as new content is created. [Visit our YouTube channel here.](#)

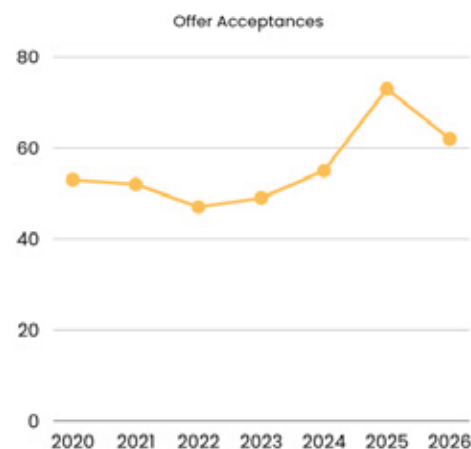
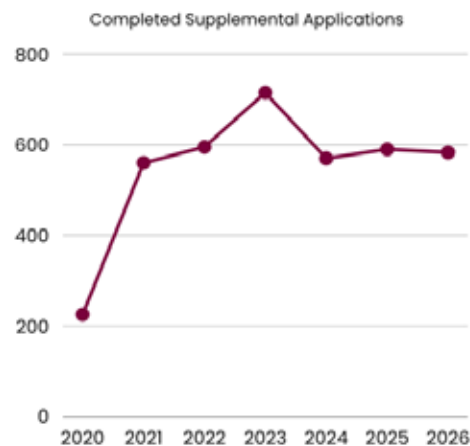
Application and Enrollment

One of the unique features of the IBH program is its cohorted structure and small classroom size. This structure is conducive to the conversations and creativity necessary for skill development and workplace preparedness.

583 completed supplemental applications in 2025-2026

62 accepted offers to join the program in September 2026

56 graduating students in 2026



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Alumni Community

IBH alumni continue to play a vital role in supporting the growth and reputation of the program. In 2026, we proudly welcomed 56 new graduates, bringing the total number of IBH alumni to 259. This growing network of engaged and accomplished graduates not only reflects the program's success but also serves as a valuable resource for current students through mentorship, networking, and career development opportunities. As ambassadors of the IBH program, our alumni help strengthen connections between the academic and professional worlds, contributing to a vibrant, supportive, and forward-thinking community.





IBH Mentorship Program

Engaging our growing alumni community through the IBH Mentorship Program has been incredibly valuable for current students. We look forward to another successful year of mentorship as we begin planning for the 2026–2027 program offering.

For more information about the IBH Mentorship Program, refer to the “Student Life” section of this report.



IBH Graduate and Alumni Pinning Ceremony

In April 2026, the program held its third annual IBH Graduate and Alumni Pinning Ceremony, a meaningful tradition that marks the transition from student to alumni. This event is a time for reflection and connection, as graduates prepare to embark on their next chapter. We were honoured to welcome back several IBH alumni to participate in the ceremony who helped us pin members of the graduating class.

The IBH Delegate position is an elected role which has valedictory responsibilities by giving a speech at the pinning ceremony. The delegate for 2025–2026 was graduating student, Sierra Haziza. Her remarks emphasized the importance of the tightly held relationships within IBH cohorts and their role in helping to grow and develop through the program.

This growing tradition continues to be a highlight of the academic year, embodying the close-knit, supportive spirit that defines the IBH program.

To our newest alumni: we are so proud of your accomplishments and will miss seeing you around campus. Please stay in touch, and we hope to see you at next year’s ceremony to pin the next graduating class.

FEEDBACK COMMUN

WORK AND COMMUNICATION

A woman with long, wavy brown hair and glasses, wearing a dark blue blazer over a white top, is looking down at a laptop. A man with short, dark, curly hair, wearing a dark blue jacket over a black shirt, is also looking at the laptop. They are sitting at a white table in a bright, modern setting with large windows in the background. The laptop is open, and the man's hands are on the keyboard.

Feedback and Communication

Feedback and open communication help ensure that the voices of faculty, students, and alumni are heard, guiding the program's evolution in response to their needs and perspectives. By offering various channels for input and regularly sharing updates, events, and opportunities, we strengthen engagement across the program.

IBH Student Subcommittee

The IBH Student Subcommittee is a vital connection between IBH leadership and the student population.

For more information about the IBH Student Subcommittee, refer to the “Program Highlights” section of this report.

Annual Town Hall

In January, the program holds an annual town hall with students to promote transparency, encourage open dialogue, and strengthen the sense of community among students and IBH leadership. This forum provides an opportunity to share program updates, celebrate achievements, and gather feedback directly from students. By creating space for honest conversation, the town hall helps ensure the program continues to evolve in ways that reflect the needs and aspirations of the IBH community.

The January 2026 IBH Town Hall marked a milestone for the program, drawing the largest attendance in the event’s history. Students received key updates about program initiatives and engaged in thoughtful discussions on the responsible and effective use of AI in academic and professional settings. The session also offered a valuable forum for students to share feedback, helping shape future program enhancements.

Cohort Check-Ins

At the start of each academic year, the Program Director and Program Administrator schedule a one-hour visit with IBH cohorts’ level I and II to provide a program update, offer support, and set the tone for the year ahead. These check-ins offer students a chance to share feedback, ask questions, and connect directly with program leadership, ensuring everyone feels seen, heard, and supported as they navigate the busy term ahead.

Student Teams Channel

First launched during the 2023–2024 academic year, the IBH Teams channel has now completed its third full cycle as an integral part of program communication. Serving as a central hub, the channel allows program leadership to easily connect with all IBH students, or specific cohorts, with important updates, event invitations, and key resources.

In addition to official communications, the channel encourages peer-to-peer support, giving students a space to share opportunities, ask questions, and stay engaged with the broader IBH community throughout the academic year.

Student Survey

Understanding our students is crucial for a healthy program. We aim to learn who our students are by asking them about their motivations and experiences in the program. Most importantly, we want to understand who these aspects are interconnected to identify gaps in our programming. Tracking data year-over-year will help us to better understand common sentiments in the program.

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Future Initiatives

- **COIL Projects.** In the 2026/2027 school year we are building out two Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) projects to enhance our students' understanding of international business and support the global mindedness pillar. One new project in the 3rd year Business in a Global Context and a reboot of the 2nd year Global Business Experience moving from Africa to South America.
- **Capstone Course Development.** Drawing on two student workshops organized by DeGroote's teaching and learning team, the IBH program administration has collaborated to develop principles to guide redeveloping the capstone courses. While the leadership development course will remain focused on helping students interpret the leadership experiences from their time in the program, the community engaged, social entrepreneurship, and global mindedness capstones will be hands-on, project-focused and workshop driven courses that take the training wheels off and help IBH students test their growth over the course of the program.
- **Alumni Community Development.** This upcoming year we will be formalizing an alumni committee that will be composed of members from across graduating cohorts. This committee will serve to maintain connection among alumni and between alumni and the IBH program. Thank you to the leadership of Nicole Harris ('22), Hrithik Sharma ('23), and Sierra Haziza ('26) as well as the support of Lynn Matisz from the DeGroote alumni team. We will be reviewing the results of a recent survey and strategizing next steps. Reach out if interested!





Khaled Hassanein
Dean,
DeGroote School of Business



Sean Corner
Dean,
Faculty of Humanities

Message from the Deans

The Integrated Business and Humanities community is reshaping Canada's business landscape through the program's unique focus on leadership, community engagement, global-mindedness and social enterprise. The program prepares our students not only to succeed in today's challenging environments, but to lead with insight, empathy and purpose, recognizing that business decisions are never made within a vacuum, but are shaped by cultural, ethical and social contexts.

Through the pairing of rigorous business education and humanities scholarship, our students cultivate the critical thinking and moral imagination needed for socially responsible leadership. They learn to ask not only "What is profitable?" but also "What is sustainable, ethical and meaningful?" — a perspective that is essential in a world increasingly influenced by economic uncertainty, rapid technological change and political instability.

The collaboration between DeGroote School of Business and the Faculty of Humanities is uniquely poised to produce business leaders who address economic challenges through the framework of human experience. The human skills fostered by the humanities — creativity, adaptability, ethical reasoning and communication — have never been more valuable. Pair those skills with innovation, leadership and business acumen and our graduates are equipped to work alongside advancing technologies while retaining a holistic perspective that machines simply cannot replicate. They are prepared to navigate ambiguity, challenge assumptions and envision possibilities beyond conventional frameworks.

Our students and alumni work in community development, public policy and corporate leadership. They partner with local businesses, nonprofits and social enterprises. They are skilled at collaboration, because interdisciplinary thinking is built into the foundation of the program.

This partnership has yielded so many meaningful outcomes and socially conscious initiatives. We are proud to watch our students and graduates make a difference in Canada and the world.

Contact Us

If you have any questions about the information in this annual report, please email

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**DeGroote
School of Business**