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### V. Academic Information

#### Academic Sessions

The academic year is divided into two sessions: the fall/winter session and the summer session. The fall/winter session begins in September and ends in April or May. Normally, full-year courses are scheduled during the fall/winter session. The summer session begins in May and is completed in August. The summer session is comprised of various terms ranging in varying lengths of duration.

#### Credit Value of Courses

Each course will have a suffix identifying the credit value for that particular course. The credit value is determined according to the suffix of the course. For example, AS/EN 1000 6.00 has the suffix "6.00" indicating that the course carries a credit value of six.

#### Grade and Grading Schemes

Grades and grading schemes are used to assess the performance of students in undergraduate programs at York University. The following table outlines the grading schemes used by the university:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>80-89</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
<td>Very Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>75-76</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>65-69</td>
<td>Fairly Competent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>55-59</td>
<td>Marginally Passing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>50-54</td>
<td>Passing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>0-0</td>
<td>Fail</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For courses taken under the pass/fail option, students receive either a "P" for pass or an "F" for fail. The pass/fail option is not available for courses in the Faculty of Education.

#### Enrolment and Registration

Students register by paying tuition fees for courses in accordance with the regulations of the Faculty and its teaching units.

### Cross-listed Courses

Some courses overlap significantly with other courses in terms of content and approach. There are two categories of overlap: equivalent courses and excluded courses. Equivalent courses are so similar that they may be substituted for one another in order to fulfill degree requirements; e.g. if AS/EN 1000 6.00 is offered by the English department, it may be counted as a humanities course in the student's record, or a psychology course, but not as both.

### Grades and Year-of-Study Equivalents

A student's progress towards a degree is measured in terms of credits passed rather than years of study completed. Where it is necessary or helpful to equate credits passed with years of study, the following table may be used:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Credits Completed</th>
<th>Year of Study Equivalent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For courses taken under the pass/fail option, students receive either a "P" for pass or an "F" for fail. The pass/fail option is not available for courses in the Faculty of Education.

#### Cross-listed Courses

Cross-listed courses are courses that are offered by more than one teaching unit, usually from two or more different Faculties. Cross-listed courses may not be "double-counted" in the same degree. For example, if a student takes AS/EN 1000 6.00, it may be counted as a humanities course in the student's record, or a psychology course, but not as both.
Definitions of Grading Descriptions

A+ Exceptional. Thorough knowledge of concepts and/or techniques and exceptional skill or great originality in the use of those concepts/techniques in satisfying the requirements of an assignment or course.

A Excellent. Thorough knowledge of concepts and/or techniques together with a high degree of skill and some elements of originality in satisfying the requirements of an assignment or course.

B+ Very Good. Thorough knowledge of concepts and/or techniques together with a fairly high degree of skill in the use of those concepts/techniques in satisfying the requirements of an assignment or course.

B Good. Good level of knowledge of concepts and/or techniques together with considerable skill in using them to satisfy the requirements of an assignment or course.

C+ Competent. Acceptable level of knowledge of concepts and/or techniques together with considerable skill in using them to satisfy the requirements of an assignment or course.

C Fairly Competent. Acceptable level of knowledge of concepts and/or techniques together with some skill in using them to satisfy the requirements of an assignment or course.

D+ Passing. Slightly better than minimal knowledge of required concepts and/or techniques together with some ability to use them in satisfying the requirements of an assignment or course.

D Barely Passing. Minimum knowledge of concepts and/or techniques needed to satisfy the requirements of an assignment or course.

E Marginally Failing.

F Failing.

Calculation of Averages

Two types of averages are calculated and reported to students: sessional and cumulative. All averages calculated for purposes such as determining eligibility to proceed and graduate are credit-weighted.

Sessional grade point average: This average reflects a student’s grades for a particular academic session (e.g. Fall/Winter 2001-2002).

Cumulative grade point average: This average reflects a student’s grades over the entire undergraduate career in a student’s particular degree program.

Definitions of Pass and Fail

Passed courses

A passed course is one in which the student has achieved a grade of D or better.

Failed courses

There are two failing grades on the Undergraduate Grading Scheme: E (marginal failure) and F (failure).

Grades Release Dates (grade reports and transcripts)

Academic reviews occur prior to the release of grades on grade reports and transcripts. Grades submitted by an instructor are subject to review by the teaching unit in which the course is offered and by the Faculty Council or Faculty Committee on Academic Policy and Planning. Grades and transcripts are normally released by the Registrar’s Office when the review has been completed.

Withdrawal

Withdrawal from a Session

You are considered officially withdrawn from the academic term or session and from the University after you drop your last course via the registration and enrolment system. Your official student record at the University is then annotated to indicate that you have formally discontinued your studies in a given program and academic term or session.

Discontinuation of studies/non-attendance of courses does not constitute official withdrawal for purposes of regulations and fee adjustments.

Ignorance of the regulations or proof of other activity does not constitute grounds for retroactive withdrawal.

In the case of withdrawal, the Office of Student Financial Services will use the date of notification or the date you dropped your courses to compute the amount of fees owing or to be refunded.

Re-admission After Withdrawal

Normally, students who withdraw from a term or session and who wish to attend a subsequent session may request reactivation through the Registrar’s Office. Students who attend another institution without obtaining a letter of permission, must reapply for admission and supply supporting documentation where necessary. Students who withdraw from their first session at York without having completed any courses, may request reactivation within one academic year. If longer, a student is required to reapply for admission.

Tuition Refunds After Withdrawal

Refunds for withdrawal will be based on the University Refund Table, which is available on the Current Students Web site.

Note: Students may not withdraw from any course(s) in which a charge of academic dishonesty is being considered against them or in which they have been found guilty of academic dishonesty. Students who are found innocent of a charge of academic dishonesty may continue in the course and may request that someone other than the instructor grade their work. Alternatively students who are found innocent of a charge of academic dishonesty may withdraw from the course(s) in question without academic penalty by informing the Faculty Dean’s Office in writing.

Deregistration

The University Registrar is empowered to deregister students who:

• do not meet the University’s admissions requirements or the conditions of admission imposed by the Admissions Office;
• are not eligible or entitled to enrol in a program of study, and are not authorized to enrol by the Faculty;
• do not meet the country’s citizenship and immigration laws;
• contravene the policies stated in the York University Act, upon instructions from the President.

Students who are deregistered on these grounds will be deemed not to have registered in the academic session. No registration or academic activity records will be retained. Students will be refunded their academic fees in full less any indebtedness to the University.

The University Registrar or other appropriate officer will inform the student, and appropriate academic and service areas.

A student who enrolls or registers for courses pending notification of academic standing at the end of the previous session or pending the result of a petition bearing on academic standing may have that enrolment subsequently cancelled or be subsequently deregistered if academic standing is such as to require withdrawal, debarment or suspension.

Classification of Students

For general purposes, a student is deemed by the University to be full-time if s/he takes the equivalent of 18 credits or more in a given two-term session. For further information, contact the Registrar’s Office.

Student Records

Access to Student Record Policy

By applying for admission to York University and by enrolling in a program at the University, students accept the Registrar’s Office’s right to collect...
pertinent personal information. The information is needed to establish a record of their performance in programs and courses, provide the basis for awards and governmental funding and to assist the University in the academic and financial administration of its affairs. Students also agree that all documentation that they submit to the University in support of an application for admission, residence accommodation or financial aid, or any petition or appeal, becomes the property of the University.

York University is committed to taking every reasonable step to protect the confidentiality and privacy of the information contained in the records of students. Unless compelled to do so by law, or authorized by the student in writing, the Registrar’s Office will not disclose the confidential contents of student records to any party outside the University.

An electronic record of students’ achievements at the University are preserved permanently, but all other documentation contained in students’ files may be destroyed when no longer required.

Access to Confidential Student Records and Disclosure of Information

Public access
It is the Registrar’s Office’s policy to make a minimum of information freely available to all inquirers. This includes the student’s active registration status, current field of studies and degree(s) that have been conferred by the University and the date(s) of conferral. Except as specified below, no other information contained in the record will be disclosed only with the student’s written consent. This restriction applies to requests from parents, spouses, credit bureaus and police.

Student access
Students have the right to inspect all documents contained in their own record, with the exception of evaluations and letters of reference supplied to the University with the understanding that they be kept confidential.

Students have the right to request that erroneous information contained in their records be corrected and that recipients of any information found to be in error be advised of the correction.

Students wishing to inspect their record must make an appointment with the Associate Registrar, Student Services.

Upon written request to the Registrar’s Office, students whose fee account shows no outstanding balance may obtain an official transcript of their record of studies at the University sent to a third party.

Transcripts issued directly to students bear the notation “Issued to Student”.

Documents pertaining to a student’s achievement at another institution, which may have been received by the University, will not be released or redirected.

Employee and student organization access
Employees of the University are permitted access to information contained in student records, if they need to know the information in order to perform their official duties. As a general rule, only employees involved in some aspect of academic administration or student affairs are given access to the contents of student records.

Student organizations

By making a request to the Assistant Vice-President of Student Affairs, the central undergraduate student government, the York Federation of Students (YFS), and the central graduate student government, the York University Graduate Students Association (GSA), as well as constituent organizations authorized by them, may obtain listings of students for purposes of communicating with their membership. Listings will be provided by the Office of Student Affairs upon written request signed by an authorized officer with the understanding that the information will not be disclosed to a third party.

Legally mandated access
Specified records or portions thereof may be provided to persons or agencies pursuant to a court order, summons or subpoena directing the University to release information; to Statistics Canada and the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities in connection with enrolment audits; or in accordance with the requirements of duly constituted professional licensing and certification bodies.

Transcripts of Academic Record

Copies of student transcripts will be issued at the student’s request. Transcript requests are normally processed as follows:

- **Undergraduate**: Students who attended after 1982 – five business days.
- **Undergraduate**: Students who attended York prior to 1982 – 10 business days.
- **Graduate**: 10 business days.

*Note: These timelines are usually met throughout the year, however, transcript orders may be delayed during peak periods: January, May/June and September/October. Please plan accordingly.*

In accordance with the Registrar’s Office Policy on Access to Student Records, the student’s signature, or Passport York login is required for the release of records. Transcripts issued directly to the student are stamped “Issued to Student”. The Registrar’s Office cannot be responsible for transcripts lost or delayed in the mail.

Methods of Ordering Transcripts

Ordering transcripts online
Transcripts can be ordered online by going to [http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/services/everything/transcripts/index.htm](http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/services/everything/transcripts/index.htm) and following the instructions.

Ordering transcripts in person
Transcripts may be ordered in person at the Registrar’s Office, by mail or by fax (416-736-5444). Telephone requests for transcripts cannot be accepted.

Ordering by mail or by fax

Requests by fax and mail must be accompanied by the following information:

- Full name when registered as a student and your current name if different;
- York student number (or your date of birth and Social Insurance Number) and the degree pursued, e.g. BA, MBA or PhD;
- Current mailing address and a daytime telephone number;
- The number of transcripts required;
- The complete name and address of where you would like the transcript(s) sent;
- Visa or MasterCard information;
- Your signature.

Picking up a transcript

If someone other than the student plans to pick up your transcript, you must give that person a signed authorization identifying the person and that they are authorized to pick up your transcript. Photo identification will be required.

Payment

The Registrar’s Office accepts cash, debit cards, money orders (payable to York University), Visa and MasterCard. Payments by cash or debit card are only accepted with in person orders made at the Registrar’s Office. Payments by cheque are not accepted.

When paying by credit card students must include their name, the type of credit card (we accept Visa and MasterCard), the credit card number, the card’s expiry date and their signature.

Transcript fees must accompany all orders. Incomplete orders cannot be processed.

Restriction

In accordance with University policy, transcripts will not be released to students who have an outstanding account with the University.
Change of Name
As the Registrar's Office is committed to the integrity of its student records, each student is required to provide, either on application for admission or in personal data required for registration, his/her legal name. Any requests to change a name, by means of alteration or deletion, substitution or addition, must be accompanied by appropriate supporting documentation. Upon making application for graduation a student may be asked to provide proof of his/her name.

Change of Address
A student must maintain current and up-to-date permanent and mailing address information on the records of the University in order to receive pertinent mailings, such as Sessional Identification Cards.
Address changes are done through the Web at Current Students Web site.

Emergency Situations Requiring Student Access
On occasion, a personal emergency may require you be contacted quickly. Since the Keele campus of the University comprises some 578 acres, 60 buildings, 275 classrooms, seminar rooms and lecture halls, and has a population of more than 50,000, no campus-wide public address system can be provided. The Security Control Centre, once satisfied, will only consider contacting a student in class when a request is deemed urgent or life-threatening.
Limited physical resources and associated constraints make it impossible to guarantee contact.
Students are urged to provide those who may need to be reached in an emergency with an up-to-date copy of their class timetable, specifying days, times and locations.

Notification of Disclosure of Personal Information to Statistics Canada
Statistics Canada is the national statistical agency. As such, Statistics Canada carries out hundreds of surveys each year on a wide range of matters, including education.

It is essential to be able to follow students across time and institutions to understand, for example, the factors affecting enrolment demand at postsecondary institutions. The increased emphasis on accountability for public investment means that it is also important to understand "outcomes". In order to carry out such studies, Statistics Canada asks all colleges and universities to provide data on students and graduates. Institutions collect and provide to Statistics Canada student identification information (student's name, student ID number, Social Insurance Number), student contact information (address and telephone number), student demographic characteristics, enrolment information, previous education and labour force activity.

The Federal Statistics Act provides the legal authority for Statistics Canada to obtain access to personal information held by educational institutions. The information may be used only for statistical purposes, and the confidentiality provision of the Statistics Act prevent the information from being released in any way that would identify a student.
Students who do not wish to have their information used are able to ask Statistics Canada to remove their identification and contact information from the national database.
Further information on the use of this information can be obtained from Statistics Canada's Web site: http://www.statcan.ca or by writing to the Postsecondary Section, Centre for Education Statistics, 17th Floor, R.H. Coats Building, Tunney's Pasture, Ottawa, K1A 0T6.

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