# ACADEMIC ADVISING

DISCLAIMER—Please note that the following information is provided to help guide you in selecting your first year courses. It is the responsibility of all students to familiarize themselves with the specific requirements for the degree which they seek. This information can be found at [www.trentu.ca/calendar](http://www.trentu.ca/calendar)

**The following are some tips on course selection for the various majors available on the Durham campus. Please also visit** [**www.trentu.ca/durham/orientation**](http://www.trentu.ca/durham/orientation)

**\*Please note: students in receipt of transfer credits should review all documents on this webpage but are also advised to consult with an Academic Advisor to confirm appropriate course selection.**

**Please note that all first year students should build WRIT 1001H into their timetable. Some programs already require this very helpful writing course.**

**MAJORS AVAILABLE AT THE DURHAM CAMPUS INCLUDE:**

## Anthropology, English, History, Psychology, Sociology, Communications and Critical Thinking, Media Studies, BSW\*, BBA\*, Child and Youth Studies\* and Philosophy (3 year)

***\*BBA, BSW and Child and Youth Studies students should read all of this document but also refer to ‘First Year Course Selection by Major’ document to see additional course requirements and/or considerations for first year.***

***\*Teachers Education Stream students please note that ‘Teachers Education Stream’ is NOT a major—you will still need to determine what your major will be by end of first year if you have not already done so. See ‘First Year Course Selection by Major’ for information on required courses in first year.***

***Please note the difference between courses and credits.*** A first year full course load usually consists of 5 courses per term. 5 ‘courses’ in a term equates to 2.5 ‘credits’. So, 5 ‘courses’ per term (fall and winter) equates to 5.0 ‘credits’ for the year. You may end up taking fewer courses but it is your responsibility to know whether or not you should be taking a particular course load. Please ask an Academic Advisor if you are unsure of what load you should be carrying. The university defines 3.5 credits to 5.0 credits ‘full-time’ and 3.0 or less ‘part-time’. Please consult [www.trentu.ca/financialaid](http://www.trentu.ca/financialaid) for definitions of ‘full-time’ and ‘part-time’ for the purposes of OSAP. Students registered with Accessibility Services should consult an Advisor about course loads.

Typically you will need to complete the first year introductory courses in a subject before being able to take upper year courses (exceptions are noted in the “First Year Course Descriptions” document). Find the introductory course for your area(s) of interest (if undeclared) or your intended major(s). These courses will start with 1 (one) which represents the introductory 1000 level. For example, PSYC 1020H or SOCI 1001H. **You are picking courses for both the Fall and Winter semesters so remember to select the second half of your intro course (if there is one) in the winter term.** For example, you need both PSYC 1020H (Fall) and PSYC 1030H (Winter) if you are a Psychology major. However, ADMN 1000H does not have a second half component—Business majors can pair this with any other course they are eligible to take. This means you can combine courses from different subjects as long as (like in Business) there is no other ‘required’ half or you don’t intend to major in the subject (see ‘First Year Course Descriptions’ document for prerequisites of a particular course). I know, confusing right?!

Remember, there are a few courses that are not in two half credits but instead just run through both terms. These are called full-credit courses. HIST (History) 1000Y is such a course and it therefore technically represents a course in each term so you should be mindful of this when counting how many ‘courses’ you have in each term as well as ‘credits’ for the year

After choosing your courses of primary interest, it is time to think of what other courses you might like to take in first year. These are often referred to as ‘electives’. Review the ‘First Year Course Description’ document on this webpage to see what interests you. Remember, course descriptions can also be found at [www.trentu.ca/calendar](http://www.trentu.ca/calendar).

***Think about taking other 1000 level courses that you enjoyed in a previous educational setting.***

***Consider taking something at the 1000 level that is new to you and sounds intriguing.***

**OTHER IMPORTANT THINGS TO NOTE:**

There is really nothing that you can take that is ‘wrong’ however, be mindful that if you ‘intend’ to stay at the Durham campus you should choose at least a couple of introductory courses from majors that you can complete in Durham.

Try not to schedule more than two (2) courses per day as more than two can potentially be an overwhelming amount of information in one day.

All introductory courses in Durham are open to all students (except EDUC courses).

As mentioned above, most of your first year classes will be classes that begin with 1. However, there are some exceptions. These include ENGL 2001H, AHCL 2350H, ANTH 2001H, 2002H, ANTH 2121H and ANTH 2122H. See “First Year Course Descriptions” for other exceptions.

You are not ‘locked in’ to your major. You can change your mind after exploring your first year. Speak to your Academic Advisor about ‘Joint Majors’ and Minors/Options/Emphasis/Specializations during your first year.

Please note that the timetable is subject to change.