BBA/BCS double degree course selection guide

For students who started in Fall 2015. Students who start in 2016 may use this as a preliminary guide.

This guide is designed to help CS DD students plan their core (required) courses for their first 3 years.

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- Email: dtompkins@uwaterloo.ca

Disclaimer: This guide is a handy tool, but it is not a substitute for the official degree regulations. If there is a question of interpretation or a discrepancy, the University Calendar always takes precedence.

Overview

To graduate, you must complete 52 courses:

- 18 required BUS/ECON courses
- 6 BUS electives (BUS 3xx or BUS 4xx) **2017 CHANGE: BU 385, 395 replaced by BU 375 & 1 BUS elective**
- 19 required CS/MATH courses
- 4 CS electives (two from CS 340-398 or 440-489 and two from 440-489) ... also, check CS Breadth requirements
- 1 Communications course (EMSL 101R, EMSL 102R, EMLS/ENGL 129R, ENGL 109, SPCOM 100, SPCOM 223) This must be completed with a grade >= 60% before you start 2A.
- 4 general electives in any subject, including CS or BUS

Business core courses

To properly plan your courses, you must understand the business core.

For your first 6 academic terms, you must take the following **15** courses in the specified terms:

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**IMPORTANT: These courses cannot be rearranged or taken in different terms.**

In special circumstances (e.g., an extended illness), an alternative plan may be approved by a Laurier advisor.

Here are 3 required BUS/ECON courses that are not listed above and suggestions for when to take them:

- ECON 250 or 260 (ECON 2x0) can be taken any time. Laurier “recommends” you complete the course before 3A, but this is not a requirement. Many students complete ECON 2x0 as an online course while on co-op.
- BUS 481 and BUS 491 are typically completed in 4A and 4B respectively.
CS/MATH core courses

The arrangement of your CS/MATH core courses is much more flexible than the BUS core.

As long as course prerequisites are met, courses can be taken in any term.

Currently, all of the required CS/MATH courses are offered every term, except for the CS 49x courses, which are only offered in Winter and Spring (some sources only list Winter, but they are scheduled for both Winter and Spring).

The following prerequisite diagram will help you plan your courses.

For the full prerequisite chart and more details, visit: https://cs.uwaterloo.ca/bbabcs-courses.

Miscellaneous notes:

- CO 250 and STAT 231 must be completed before the BUS 3A block. If you fail to meet this requirement, you may be removed from the BBA program.

- It is “recommended” that you take CS 241 and CS 251 together, but this is a weak recommendation and not necessary.

- Many upper year courses depend on CS 341 or CS 350. Depending on which CS electives you want to take, you may wish to take CS 350 before CS 341 (or vice-versa). Most student try to take CS 350 first.

- Your CS electives (3xx and 4xx) may not be offered every term. For the most part, CS courses are offered in the same terms year-to-year, but there is no guarantee of availability until the term before.

- Some students try to avoid having multiple “hard” Math / CS courses in the same term, especially in their 3B term with Laurier’s ICE week. Opinions of which courses are “hard” vary considerably—ask around.

At the end of this guide you’ll find several possible scheduling scenarios.
Sixth courses (an “Overloaded” term).

Note: these rules changed in Fall 2015, so some sources may list different rules.

- The tuition in an overloaded term (i.e., 6 courses) is the same as a regular term (5 courses) at either institution. Students often overload to save tuition to their detriment: Avoid making academic decisions for financial reasons.
- Students with a Cumulative Average (CAV) of >= 80% are eligible to take a 6th course.
  - This option should be automatically available on Quest for students in 2A or later.
- CS DD students with a CAV greater than or equal to 70 but less than 80 can be overridden into six courses.
  - This can occur at most two times.
  - This override will automatically happen in 1B, but in other terms students should email their advisor to request an overloaded term.
  - Students who fail a course are ineligible to overload in the subsequent term.
  - Overloaded terms are granted at the discretion of their Waterloo academic advisor.
  - If a student in 2A or later WDs a course while in an overloaded term, it still counts as one of their two opportunities.

Courses during co-op terms

- Unless you are employed in the Waterloo region and can attend lectures, only online courses are encouraged during co-op terms.
- You can enroll in one course per co-op term.
- With an employer’s consent, you may be allowed to take a second course during a co-op term. Email your advisor to request a “load increase” override.

Online courses

- Prior to 2015, the only required course available online was ECON 250 (or 260).
- Currently, more Math courses are available online (e.g., MATH 13x, STAT 23x, CO 250). When these courses are offered regularly, there will be more possible scenarios.
- No required CS courses are available online.
- No BUS core courses can be taken online, but it may be possible to repeat a BUS course online to improve your grade.

Other Miscellaneous Notes

- CS DD students can NOT take BU 415 as a BUS elective. It is considered an anti-req with CS 490.
- Students pursuing a CA (Accounting) certification option with their BBA must take BU 456 instead of CS 490. If you are pursuing this option, please contact your advisor.
Scenarios

This section includes various scenarios to help you schedule your terms in the way you want.

These scenarios are only guidelines. They are not “official” and they are not an exhaustive list of possibilities.

Scenario A

This sequence is suggested in the Laurier Calendar, although students rarely follow this sequence.

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Scenario B

This is a very ambitious sequence for students who want to overload terms and take courses while on co-op.

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Scenario C

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### Scenario D

Some students want to avoid overloading any terms in their degree.

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### Scenario E

Similar to Scenario D (with no overloaded terms) but with no courses taken during coop. This delays CS courses considerably, with CS 350 taken in 4B (not shown).

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### Scenario F

This sequence is for a student who wants to take as many overloaded terms as possible in their degree, while avoiding any courses during co-op. This will minimize the amount of tuition they pay.

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Scenario G

This is a sequence for a student who takes CS 115 and CS 116 and “catches up” by overloading.

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Scenario H

This is a sequence for a student who takes CS 115 and CS 116 and avoids any overloaded terms.

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Scenario I

This sequence is for a Laurier-based student who wants to use their first “off” term to get ahead in CS and MATH, while still avoiding any overloaded terms. (Most students are not this ambitious in their third term.)

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More scenarios may be added. Email Dave if you have suggestions.