

# Student Guide

## *ACB Course Selection*



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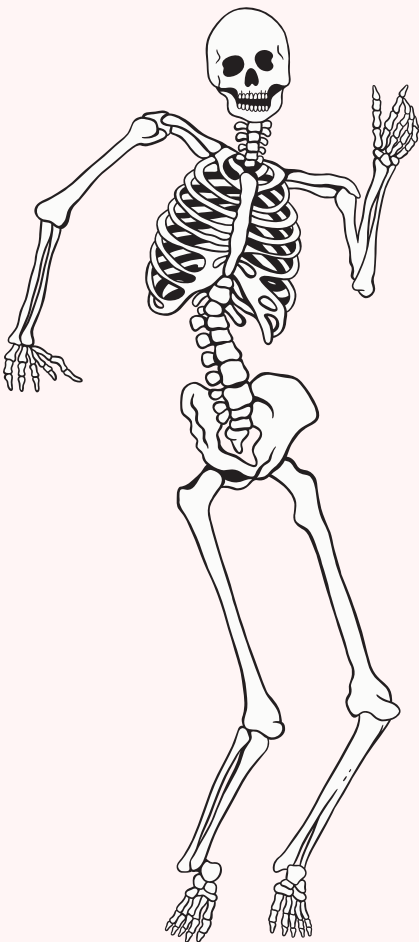
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CONTACT US

# Introduction

Welcome to the Anatomy and Cell Biology Student Guide! Whether you're a new or returning student, this guide is here to help you navigate the exciting world of ACB at McGill University. Our department offers a diverse range of courses that will sharpen your scientific skills, expand your knowledge, and prepare you for whatever your future may bring. Use this guide to explore your options, make informed decisions, and set yourself up for success!

\*Please note: This is not an official guide to McGill courses and has been formulated through student opinions. We recommend that students check their up-to-date syllabi and prerequisites to make sure the information is accurate. If you have any questions, comments or strongly disagree with any of the points made on this document please feel free to reach out.



## AACS vs BOCS

Aside from required courses, the two other types of courses you must take in the ACB program are Advanced Anatomy Courses (AACs) and Biology Oriented Courses (BOCs).

Liberal – 9 Cr AACs, 6–7 Cr BOCs

Major – 12 Cr AACs, 12 Cr BOCs

Honours – 18 Cr AACs, 3 Cr BOCs



# Legend

## Difficulty Scale



VERY  
EASY



VERY  
HARD

## Tags

GREAT PROF

HARD/FAIR ASSESSMENTS

INTERESTING CONTENT

MEMORIZATION HEAVY

CHILL/STRESSFUL

ATTAINABLE A

# Student Recommended



# AACs

## ANAT 314



GREAT PROF

FAIR ASSESSMENTS

INTERESTING CONTENT

MEMORIZATION HEAVY



**PROS:** Cadaver labs, more dynamic side of anatomy, very comprehensive and informative, engaging classes and labs, content relevant to the gym

**CONS:** Very content heavy, lotssss of memorization required, mentally draining

## ANAT 321



GREAT PROF

FAIR ASSESSMENTS

INTERESTING CONTENT

CHILL

ATTAINABLE A



**PROS:** Very engaging prof who loves what he does, type A multiple choice, great content, fair exams

**CONS:** 40/60 midterm/final

## ANAT 322



STRESSFUL

HARD ASSESSMENTS

INTERESTING CONTENT

MEMORIZATION HEAVY

**PROS:** Interesting neuro content

**CONS:** Very difficult multiple choice, lots of content



# AACs

## ANAT 365



No Tags Available Yet

**SORRY!** We are still collecting student data for this course. If you would like to help provide a review for the next edition, please reach out to us!

## ANAT 381



STRESSFUL

HARD ASSESSMENTS

INTERESTING CONTENT

MEMORIZATION HEAVY



**PROS:** Interesting embryology content, comprehensive overview of signalling pathways and genetics

**CONS:** Lots of content, need deep knowledge of content beyond memorization

## NEUR 310



No Tags Available Yet

**SORRY!** We are still collecting student data for this course. If you would like to help provide a review for the next edition, please reach out to us!

# AACs

## ANAT 416



CHILL

FAIR ASSESSMENTS



**PROS:** No midterm, multiple profs for different perspectives, lectures in more of a seminar format with emphasis on recent research, fair quizzes

**CONS:** Lots of content, pop quizzes, writing papers, class discussions

## ANAT 458



No Tags Available Yet

**SORRY!** We are still collecting student data for this course. If you would like to help provide a review for the next edition, please reach out to us!

## ANAT 514



GREAT PROF

FAIR ASSESSMENTS

INTERESTING CONTENT

CHILL

ATTAINABLE A



**PROS:** Cadaver dissections, hands on, collaborative environment, most time spent in the lab

**CONS:** Lots of work, strong smell in lab, not ideal for those that are squeamish

# AACs

## ANAT 541



**PROS:** No midterm or final (quizzes instead)

**CONS:** Long class, oral presentation

CHILL

FAIR ASSESSMENTS

ATTAINABLE A



## ANAT 542



**PROS:** Interesting and unique content

**CONS:** Long dry labs, you may get tired of learning about microscopes

GREAT PROF

FAIR ASSESSMENTS







# BOCs

## PHGY 314

**PROS:** Interesting neuro content, covers recent research

STRESSFUL

HARD ASSESSMENTS

MEMORIZATION HEAVY

**CONS:** Time consuming and difficult content

INTERESTING CONTENT

## BIOL 306

**PROS:** Fair grading scheme with lots of opportunity to do well, teaches problem solving skills

GREAT PROF

HARD ASSESSMENTS

INTERESTING CONTENT

**CONS:** Math and physics at start of course



## PHAR 300

**PROS:** Learn more about different drug classes

MEMORIZATION HEAVY

HARD ASSESSMENTS

STRESSFUL

**CONS:** Lots of memorization of drug names

# BOCs

## BIOT 505

**PROS:** No exams (only open book quizzes), new professor every week for fresh content, range of topics

GREAT PROF

FAIR ASSESSMENTS

ATTAINABLE A

INTERESTING CONTENT



**CONS:** 3 hour class, paper with tough grading

## MIMM 387

**PROS:** Each lecture is done by a new special guest, multiple topics, final exam is not cumulative

GREAT PROF

FAIR ASSESSMENTS

MEMORIZATION HEAVY

INTERESTING CONTENT

CHILL



**CONS:** Oral presentation, need to remember details from every presentation (~100) for exams

## BIOL 320

**PROS:** Fair grading scheme with lots of opportunity to do well, engaging content and professors

GREAT PROF

FAIR ASSESSMENTS

INTERESTING CONTENT

CHILL

ATTAINABLE A

**CONS:** N/A

# BOCs

## COMP 204

**PROS:** Learn how to code

GREAT PROF

HARD ASSESSMENTS

INTERESTING CONTENT

**CONS:** Difficult final



## EXMD 504

**PROS:** Grading scheme is midterm/final with multiple choice similar to practice questions, new professor every week for fresh content

CHILL

MEMORIZATION HEAVY

ATTAINABLE A

**CONS:** 3 hour lecture

INTERESTING CONTENT



**\*\*This is only a small portion of the available BOCs. For the full list please visit our website. We are still collecting student data to review the rest of the BOCs. If you would like to help provide a review for the next edition, please reach out to us!**

# Advice From Graduates

I honestly recommend taking courses that you find interesting! Make the most out of your time in undergrad -- it will be easier to study for courses that you genuinely enjoy.



Enjoy your time in ACB because time goes fast!



You got this! The later classes are easier than the U1 classes, so it does get better.

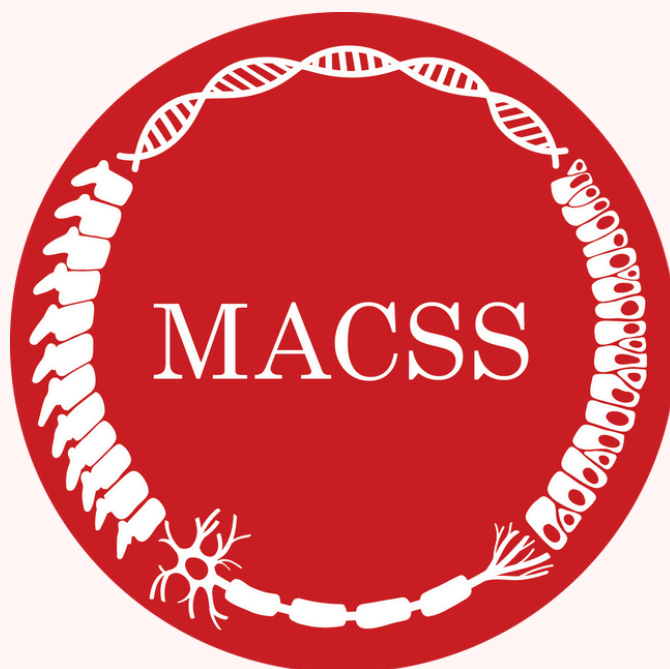


Goodluck! Try your best and don't be too hard on yourself. You're going to kill it!



Don't be scared to take the courses you love even if they are not the easiest.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to MACSS if you have any questions! If we aren't able to help, we can direct you to a resource that can. We also have an advice column available called *McGill Asks MACSS Answers*, you can find the link on our socials!



# Contact Us



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