

Guidance on Module Levels

How does the College decide at what level a course is offered?

All 5MC modules, regardless of level, are designed to require, on average, 12.5 hours of work per week. Thus, a 20MC load will require, on average, 50 hours of work per week, including class time, class preparation, and assignment completion. Although work shifts across levels, e.g., essay lengths may increase, this appropriately takes into account students' increasing skill, knowledge, and experience as they move through the college curriculum. Students should bear this in mind when considering courses that do not correspond to their year of study.

Non-Common Curriculum modules are assigned a level, from 1000-4000 based on the following criteria.

1000-level modules are introductory and have no prerequisites and little or no expectations of previous subject-specific knowledge. These courses may provide a survey of a field, or introduce students to concepts, methods, and other basic features in a field of study.

2000-level modules may have some prerequisites or assume some skills or background knowledge. These modules may provide more complex surveys, mapping material in a field of study through summarizing, classifying, and clarifying basic content, concepts, and procedures. Assignments will normally correspond to these learning objectives.

3000-level modules, including Research Seminars required by some majors, will require more complex and sophisticated deployment of intellectual competencies. Content is more specialized and builds on knowledge and skills developed in 2000 level modules. In many disciplines, prerequisites may be required, as these courses will assume familiarity with concepts, terminology, methods etc. Students enrolled in a 3000-level module should be prepared to begin to produce independently conceived work, such as a term paper, creative work, or experimental project. Such projects form a bridge to 4000 level work, including the capstone.

4000-level modules are advanced modules which should normally be taken only in Year 3 or 4, by students who have substantial preparation in an area (e.g., minor or major field of study, or field in which the student has taken several courses as electives). In evaluation for these modules, students may be expected to demonstrate mastery of relevant concepts, skills, methods, etc. through, for example, a final project that tracks students' independent intellectual interests and capacities within the field.