

First things first, we suggest that you choose 12 credits in your first term of university – rather than the maximum of 15 per term – because we’ve seen that this helps new students get used to the different speed and workload of university courses. This would mean four courses rather than five courses per term. You can always register for the maximum course load, but we recommend that you do four courses and make it up in a summer class sometime later in your degree.

Next, I want you to start by having a look at your program worksheet. There is a link to the program worksheet webpage right beside this video, but you can also find it by just checking the JMSB website. Once you’re on the page, you will want to scroll over to the section for your admission year, and then find the worksheet with your specific program length and your major. For example, if you’re coming from a US high school and you’re in the Marketing major, you would open the program worksheet for 120-credit, Bachelor of Commerce, Marketing Major students. If you’re coming from a Quebec CEGEP, and you’re in the Finance major, you would open the program worksheet for 90-credit, Bachelor of Commerce, Finance Major students.

This program worksheet shows you a simple breakdown of all the classes required to get your degree – take some time to have a look.

Your degree program is made up of prerequisite or foundation courses that then give you access to the business core – these are the Commerce classes that touch on all aspects of business – and also the courses required for your specific JMSB major. You also have elective – or “option” – courses that can be university courses that are not at all related to business, or that can partially be used to add a JMSB business minor to your degree.

One thing you should keep in mind is that you do not have to do each of these categories of courses in sequence. Always start with the basic foundation or prerequisite courses and the first few Commerce courses, but then you can start registering for a MIX OF UPPER-LEVEL COMMERCE COURSES, BASIC-LEVEL MAJOR COURSES, AND A FEW ELECTIVES here and there – all mixed together each term throughout the last few years of your degree.

The key advice here is to try to keep balance in your schedule each term. You want a mix of quantitative and qualitative courses, meaning you want half of your courses focused on “numbers” and calculating things, and the other half focused on writing papers or doing more group work. It’s not really a question of one type being harder than the other, but more that this strategy will be more comfortable – you won’t have four papers to hand in in the same week, or formulas for four different classes to memorize! You get the idea.

The next videos are split up by degree length so that you can get customized advice about your first year courses based on your specific program – please scroll down and watch the video for your program length, and then check out the information in this page about JMSB academic advising and using the MyConcordia Portal to actually register for classes.