

Questions and Answers from the utmONE Scholars Information Session (June 8, 2020)

Contact Rebecca if you have additional questions: rebecca.shaw@utoronto.ca

Apply here before June 14, 2020 (by 11:59 pm EDT)

: <https://www.utm.utoronto.ca/transition/utmone-scholars/utmone-scholars-application-201920>

Contents

Distribution Credits	2
Will this course add credits even if it's not related to my program?	2
Does a utmONE Scholars course fulfill any graduation/degree requirements/credits?	2
Application & Enrolment.....	2
How many applicants are invited to apply to utmONE Scholars?	2
Approximately how many applicants for the utmONE Scholars courses are there?	2
How many people are accepted into a utmONE Scholar course per semester?	2
Is there a criteria from which you select students or is it a first come first serve basis?	2
Are the application essays meant to be research essays?	2
If you are selected for the program but choose not to attend due to other circumstances, can you still opt out?	3
Can I take a utmONE scholars course as well as a utmONE course?	3
Can I apply for utmONE Scholars and enrol in a utmONE course and then choose one to attend?	3
Can I apply to both utmONE Scholars courses and then choose which one I want if I am accepted? Is there a possibility to switch from one seminar to the other after enrolling if we change our minds?	3
When exactly will we know that we have been accepted to one of the seminars?	4
Are there any additional charges to join utmONE Scholars?	4
Planning Your Course Schedule	4
Would we be taking this course along with our other courses that we've selected for the fall/winter term/semesters? Or is this course available over the summer as well?	4
If I have a full course load, should I still be taking this course?	4
How do I get in touch with an academic advisor?	4
Would you recommend that we start planning out our year right away/soon?	4
Programming, Course Content & Structure	5
Will the class be online or in-person?	5
How often are the classes?	5
What is the most common format of evaluation in UTMONE Scholars courses?	5
While there are sometimes small quizzes and tests, evaluation in utmONE Scholars is mostly based on short assignments, group projects and participation. To get a better sense of the types of assignments you may encounter, review last year's syllabi.	5
Is there a final exam?	5
Can you give us an insight to the syllabus for both courses?	5
What is a Scholars Collective event?	5
Student Success	6
Does utmOne Scholars give you a headstart?	6
Additional Links	6

Distribution Credits

Will this course add credits even if it's not related to my program?

Does a utmONE Scholars course fulfill any graduation/degree requirements/credits?

Both UTM193 and UTM197 provide 0.5 credits. These credits can count toward the distribution requirements you need to graduate. An explanation of distribution requirements can be found here: <https://www.utm.utoronto.ca/registrar/academic-support/distribution-requirements>

- **UTM193: Nations Colliding** credits can count toward either your Humanities (HUM) or Social Science (SSc) distribution requirement.
- **UTM197: Humans in Nature** credits can count toward either your Science (SCI) or Social Science (SSc) distribution requirement.

As Professor Havelka mentioned in the session, the courses you take for your distribution requirement can often be some of the most enjoyable as you get to experience different perspectives and learn about ideas and topics that you might not encounter in your primary program of study.

Application & Enrolment

How many applicants are invited to apply to utmONE Scholars?

We invite incoming students with an average of approximately 90% or above. The total number of invitations varies from year to year, but on average we invite approximately 400-500 students to apply to utmONE Scholars.

Approximately how many applicants for the utmONE Scholars courses are there?

We expect to receive approximately 130-150 applications for utmONE Scholars. Though this does vary from year to year.

How many people are accepted into a utmONE Scholar course per semester?

The courses are capped at 25 students. The total number of available spots depends on how many courses are offered. For the 2020-21 Academic Year we are offering two utmONE Scholars seminars (UTM193 & UTM197) so we will accept 50 students.

We also create a waiting list for each course and there is often movement as students who have been accepted need to drop because of course schedule conflicts with required courses.

Is there a criteria from which you select students or is it a first come first serve basis?

The instructors evaluate the applications based on engagement with the topic, interest in learning, and thoughtfulness of the responses. You do not need to have lots of prior knowledge about the themes of the courses, but do need to have an engaged interest in learning from multiple perspectives and being an active participant in the classroom community.

Are the application essays meant to be research essays?

The application questions are short-answer format. You do not need to do any in-depth research or structure your answers as research essays. We do recommend that you take the time to answer the questions reflectively (thoughtfully).

If you are selected for the program but choose not to attend due to other circumstances, can you still opt out?

You can drop your utmONE Scholars seminar prior to the start of class. You would do this by contacting Rebecca and filling out a drop request form. We will establish a waiting list so that we can enroll students into spots that become available in the courses. That said, we recommend that you use the timetable planner to plan out your year so that you can avoid dropping your utmONE Scholars course. The utmONE Scholars seminar are a unique opportunity for first-year students and the application process is competitive.

The UTM Timetable Planner will be updated with Fall/Winter course details soon:

<https://student.utm.utoronto.ca/timetable/>

Can I take a utmONE scholars course as well as a utmONE course?

utmONE Scholars seminars and utmONE first-year transition courses are **exclusions** to one another. This means that you can only take one for credit.

From the Office of the Registrar FAQ database,

You should avoid taking a course for which you have credit for the exclusion. If you do, the second course you take will be marked extra (EXT) and will not count for degree credit or GPA calculations. Exclusions are listed in course descriptions found in the [Academic Calendar](#) or [online timetable](#).

If you are looking for additional first-year transition support while taking a utmONE Scholars seminar, you can enroll in LAUNCH. LAUNCH is a mentorship program open to all first-year students. The program is not-for-credit but offer a notation on your co-curricular record (CCR).

LAUNCH: <https://www.utm.utoronto.ca/transition/new-student-programming/utmlaunch>

More about the CCR: <https://www.utm.utoronto.ca/utm-engage/co-curricular-record>

If you are looking to get some insight into academic skill development before classes start, you may also want to consider registering for the Head Start program run by the Robert Gillespie Academic Skills Centre (RGASC). Head Start 2020 sessions will take place each day from Monday, August 24 through to Friday, September 4, 2020 and will feature both asynchronous and synchronous online sessions.

More about Head Start: <https://www.utm.utoronto.ca/asc/head-start-program>

Can I apply for utmONE Scholars and enrol in a utmONE course and then choose one to attend?

We will contact you with the result of your utmONE Scholars application well in advance of your first-year enrollment date, by June 30, 2020. If you are unsuccessful with your application, you can enroll in one of the utmONE Courses. For more information about the utmONE first-year transition courses, please visit: <https://www.utm.utoronto.ca/transition/new-students/utmone>

Can I apply to both utmONE Scholars courses and then choose which one I want if I am accepted? Is there a possibility to switch from one seminar to the other after enrolling if we change our minds?

In the application you can select which seminar is your first choice. Applications are adjudicated based on fit to the specific seminars are you will be accepted into one or the other.

Spaces are limited in both courses, so we are unable to switch students between the seminars after the application decisions have been made. Though in some cases, we can place students who want to switch seminars on a waiting list. We do strive to place successful students into their first-choice.

If you are equally interested in both seminars, please contact Rebecca (rebecca.shaw@utoronto.ca) and we will take this into account when reviewing applications.

Both UTM193 and UTM197 are fantastic courses so it is understandable that you might be having a hard time deciding which course is best for you. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or want to discuss this.

You can also find examples of past syllabi in the **Course Syllabi Archive** by searching for UTM193 and UTM197 under the Department “Student Development and Transition”. You do need a utorkID in order to login, <https://student.utm.utoronto.ca/CourseInfo/>

When exactly will we know that we have been accepted to one of the seminars?

We will let you know if your application has been successful or not by June 30, 2020. As first-year enrolment begins on July 21, 2020 you will know if you are enrolled in a utmONE Scholars seminar well before you enroll in your other first-year courses.

Are there any additional charges to join utmONE Scholars?

There are no additional fees related to utmONE Scholars.

Planning Your Course Schedule

Would we be taking this course along with our other courses that we’ve selected for the fall/winter term/semesters? Or is this course available over the summer as well?

Both UTM193 and UTM197 are offered in the Winter Term, January – April. If your application is successful, you would take your utmONE Scholars seminar along with your other first-year courses.

If I have a full course load, should I still be taking this course?

Participating in a utmONE Scholars seminar is a unique experience; however, it isn’t recommended that first-year students go above their full course load. You’ll be learning many new things and transitioning to university life. We recommend that you talk to an academic advisor to get guidance on how to plan your courses so that you can complete the courses that are required by your program in your first-year and fit in a utmONE Scholars seminar without overburdening yourself.

How do I get in touch with an academic advisor?

The Office of the Registrar offers appointments with general academic advisors and each department has their own departmental academic advisors (undergraduate counsellors) to help you plan your degree.

- Academic Advising with Office of the Registrar: <https://www.utm.utoronto.ca/registrar/academic-support/advising-services>
- Departmental Academic Advisors: <https://www.utm.utoronto.ca/programs-departments>

Would you recommend that we start planning out our year right away/soon?

It is always a good idea to plan ahead, but you do still have plenty of time! The Timetable Planning Tool is not yet updated for the Fall/Winter Term but will be shortly. You can also register for Course

Enrolment webinars to learn more about how to navigate ACORN and course enrollment:

<https://www.utm.utoronto.ca/new-students/course-enrolment>.

If you want to get a “Head Start” on developing academic skills, we also encourage you to register for Head Start 2020, <https://www.utm.utoronto.ca/asc/head-start-program>

Programming, Course Content & Structure

Will the class be online or in-person?

We are planning for both online and in-person versions of the courses just in case. Since utmONE Scholars seminars take place in the Winter Term (January-April) there is a possibility that they will be in-person, but if they are online (or a combination of online and in-person) we are putting a lot of effort into planning the courses so that they are engaging, interactive and just as beneficial as they would have been in-person.

How often are the classes?

utmONE Scholars seminars occur weekly and are two hours in length.

What is the most common format of evaluation in UTMONE Scholars courses?

While there are sometimes small quizzes and tests, evaluation in utmONE Scholars is mostly based on short assignments, group projects and participation. To get a better sense of the types of assignments you may encounter, review last year’s syllabi.

You can also find examples of past syllabi in the **Course Syllabi Archive** by searching for UTM193 and UTM197 under the Department “Student Development and Transition”. You do need a utorID in order to login, <https://student.utm.utoronto.ca/CourseInfo/>

Contact Rebecca if you are unable to access the syllabi, rebecca.shaw@utoronto.ca.

Is there a final exam?

The “final exam” takes the form of a Scholars Symposium where all utmONE Scholars seminars come together to present and share the results of their research, similar to a real academic conference but on a smaller scale. Last term, this had to be adapted to an online format so it was slightly different but had similar outcomes.

Can you give us an insight to the syllabus for both courses?

You can find examples of past syllabi in the **Course Syllabi Archive** by searching for UTM193 and UTM197 under the Department “Student Development and Transition”. You do need a utorID in order to login, <https://student.utm.utoronto.ca/CourseInfo/>

Contact Rebecca if you are unable to access the syllabi, rebecca.shaw@utoronto.ca.

What is a Scholars Collective event?

One of the benefits of participating in utmONE Scholars is that you are part of a community. Not only do you get to know your peers, sharing perspectives and learning from each other in class, but you also are given the opportunity to build community and learn and develop outside of the classroom through our Scholars Collective events.

Events are planned with input from the students themselves and we try to host a few every term, so you can expect that you'll get together and network together in the Fall term, rather than having to wait until the Winter Term. Rebecca will be reaching out to utmONE Scholars students in September to get input on what kinds of events, likely online, will be interesting and helpful.

Examples of past events include:

- **Creative Connections Social** (Scholars got to know each other while creating seasonal crafts during the Fall Term before starting utmONE Scholars. Past Scholars also attended to share their experience with the program)
- **Board Game Social** (Scholars participated in stress-relief activities including board games during mid-term season)
- **Scholars Research Fair** (Scholars engaged with interactive roundtable discussions with faculty, staff and students about undergraduate research opportunities at UTM)
- **Engaging Presentations Workshop** (Scholars participated in a peer-leader facilitated workshop designed to improve presentation skills and build confidence for the Scholars Symposium)

Student Success

Does utmOne Scholars give you a headstart?

utmONE Scholars seminars are designed to support student success with a focus on developing university level critical thinking, presentation, participation, collaboration and research skills. Students report that participating in utmONE Scholars helped them to be successful in their other courses. The courses are designed for first-year students and you can expect a collaborative and supportive learning environment where you will develop skills that are applicable to your future academic and professional career.

If you are looking for additional first-year transition support while taking a utmONE Scholars seminar, you can enroll in LAUNCH. LAUNCH is a mentorship program open to all first-year students. The program is not-for-credit but offer a notation on your co-curricular record (CCR).

LAUNCH: <https://www.utm.utoronto.ca/transition/new-student-programming/utmlaunch>

More about the CCR: <https://www.utm.utoronto.ca/utm-engage/co-curricular-record>

If you are looking to get some insight into academic skill development before classes start, you may also want to consider registering for the Head Start program run by the Robert Gillespie Academic Skills Centre (RGASC). Head Start 2020 sessions will take place each day from Monday, August 24 through to Friday, September 4, 2020 and will feature both asynchronous and synchronous online sessions.

More about Head Start: <https://www.utm.utoronto.ca/asc/head-start-program>

Additional Links

If you have questions about apply for Student Housing and Residence Life:

- <https://www.utm.utoronto.ca/housing/utm-residence-virtual-open-house>

If you have questions about how to enroll, fee payments, orientation, etc.

- New Student Website: <https://www.utm.utoronto.ca/new-students/>
- Student Fees: <https://www.utm.utoronto.ca/new-students/fees-financial-aid>

Questions about your program, what courses to take, what credits you need, etc.

- Academic Advising with Office of the Registrar:
<https://www.utm.utoronto.ca/registrar/academic-support/advising-services>
- Departmental Academic Advisors: <https://www.utm.utoronto.ca/programs-departments>

Questions about your scholarship and what is included in your scholarships:

- Student Recruitment & Admissions Office: uoft.me/askutm or 905-828-5400