



Bachelor of Science in Agriculture

ACADEMIC INFORMATION SESSION

Who Am I?

- ▶ Melinda Vanryn - Program Counsellor
 - First point of contact
 - General policy help
 - Course schedule difficulties
 - Missed time (long term sickness)
 - Missed final exams

Goals of this Meeting



- ▶ Meet Melinda.
- ▶ Get Melinda's contact information.
- ▶ Find out more about the program and resources available.
- ▶ Jot down things to keep in mind; note that Melinda sure does have some good information.
- ▶ Absorb at least 50% of what is talked about. 40% if the weather is nice.

What Did I Sign Up For?

- ▶ Bachelor of Science in Agriculture degree program
 - ▶ Four year, honours degree
 - ▶ Undeclared (for now!)
 - ▶ FOUR majors to choose from:
 - ▶ Honours Agriculture
 - ▶ Horticulture
 - ▶ Crop Science
 - ▶ Animal Science
 - ▶ Minor? Yes.

How is University Different than High School?

- ▶ Responsibilities
 - ▶ You are responsible for knowing policies/procedures.
- ▶ No one will chase down your assignments
 - ▶ If you hand it in late, you will lose marks. Not at all? You'll get 0.
- ▶ Deadlines are deadlines
 - ▶ Things are due when they are due.
- ▶ Learning expectations
 - ▶ Less memory work, more connections/problem solving.
- ▶ You can skip class and no one will notice
 - ▶ Sure, but then how will you do well?

How are they the same?

- ▶ Involvement is good
 - ▶ Get involved, but learn time management.
- ▶ Instructors are there to help
 - ▶ Be comfortable asking for assistance if needed.
- ▶ Lots of great resources
 - ▶ Use the resources available!

Being Informed



- ▶ Undergraduate Calendar
 - ▶ Polices, degree requirements, dates, course information etc.
- ▶ Listservs
 - ▶ Emails from me, SFOAC and Registrar's Office.
- ▶ Websites
 - ▶ Search bar on uoguelph.ca
 - ▶ <https://oac-program-counselling.uoguelph.ca/>

Being Informed by People



- ▶ Faculty Advisors:
 - Animal Science – Dr. Andy Robinson
 - Horticulture – Dr. Barry Micallef
 - Crop Science – Dr. François Tardif
 - Honours Agriculture – Dr. Vern Osborne
- ▶ No Meeting for Majors tomorrow!
 - ▶ We will set up a meeting in Winter semester to dig into majors a bit more
- ▶ NOT your friends
 - ▶ They are great people, but sometimes are not correctly informed.

SFOAC (Student Federation of the Ontario Agricultural College)

- ▶ Will send listserv emails with information
- ▶ Plan events for all OAC students
- ▶ Website: aggies.ca

My Progress and Planning Tools on WebAdvisor

- ▶ Very helpful!
- ▶ A few quirks (e.g. never look at the Progress bar; it's always incorrect!).

Why is the University Structure so Confusing?

- ▶ University is founded on colleges including OAC.
- ▶ Programs/Majors are associated with colleges.
- ▶ Some scholarships/bursaries are too.

What's with all the Acronyms?

- ▶ OAC is Ontario Agricultural College
 - ▶ The college you are associated with
- ▶ B.Sc.(Agr.) is your degree program (or BSAG)
 - ▶ This is what will be after your name when you graduate
- ▶ LC is the Learning Commons
 - ▶ In the library; offers writing, research, exam help
- ▶ SAS is Student Accessibilities Services
 - ▶ Offers services for students with disabilities
- ▶ SLG is Supported Learning Groups
 - ▶ Small group learning environments for select courses

Really? There are more?

- ▶ TA is Teaching Assistant
 - ▶ Work with instructors to help students with specific courses
- ▶ FA is Faculty Advisor
 - ▶ Faculty member who is an expert in your major
- ▶ CIP is Centre for International Programs
 - ▶ Department responsible for exchange
- ▶ EL Hub is Coop and Career Services
 - ▶ Runs job fairs, mock interviews, resume writing help
- ▶ SFOAC is Student Federation of the Ontario Agricultural College
 - ▶ Your college student government
- ▶ CSA is Central Student Association
 - ▶ Your university student government

Course Survival Tips



- ▶ Ask for help.
 - ▶ I can't emphasize this enough.
- ▶ First day of classes - attend lectures/listen to first lecture
- ▶ Course Outlines
 - ▶ Read them! They contain important information concerning lab times, course policies etc.
- ▶ Courselink
- ▶ Instructors can help you!
- ▶ If a class is not going well talk to someone (who?) before the last class day
- ▶ Know the academic policies!
 - ▶ For example, the continuation of studies and students rights and responsibilities; summer courses count!

Course Notes



- ▶ Confirm you have no conflicts NOW!
 - ▶ Note how long some labs/lectures are
- ▶ Why do some of my classes still say times are TBD?
 - ▶ Distance Education (DE) vs. Virtual
- ▶ Do I need to “attend” synchronous courses?
 - ▶ Read outlines carefully to see what the requirements and resources are for each course
- ▶ I don't have a scheduled exam. Is that normal?
 - ▶ Alternates to exams

Important Dates

- ▶ Last day to add classes:
 - ▶ September 16th
- ▶ Last day to drop classes (Last Class Day):
 - ▶ December 2nd
- ▶ All dates:
 - ▶ <https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c03/index.shtml>

Take Away Tips



- ▶ Network
 - ▶ Make connections with not only students, but faculty, staff and alumni.
- ▶ Ask for help
 - ▶ Course selection, job searching, if you are struggling etc.
- ▶ Take Advantage of Resources
 - ▶ Chances are, we have a resource for you!
- ▶ Explore Opportunities
 - ▶ Build your marketable skills through various opportunities to get involved.
- ▶ Reflect
 - ▶ Take the time to think about what you are learning; what skills are you taking away for future employment?

Helpful Websites

- Program Counsellor Website: <https://oac-program-counselling.uoguelph.ca/>
- SFOAC Website: <http://aggies.ca/>
- Counselling Services: <https://wellness.uoguelph.ca/counselling/>
- Student Accessibility Services: <https://wellness.uoguelph.ca/accessibility/>
- CSA www.csaonline.ca
- Learning Commons: <https://learningcommons.lib.uoguelph.ca/>
- Career Services: <https://www.recruitguelph.ca/cecs/>
- The Cannon: www.thecannon.ca
- Athletics: <http://gryphons.ca/>
- Experiential Learning Opportunities: <https://experienceguelph.ca/home.htm>

That Melinda Sure is Helpful...

- Office Location: Johnston Hall room 133A
 - Melinda's email: mavanryn@uoguelph.ca
- Program Counselling Office Doors Open:
 - 10am – 3pm Monday to Thursday and 10am – 12pm Friday
 - Robyn is available at the front desk for quick questions
- Booking appointments:
 - Book by contacting Robyn: oac.pco@uoguelph.ca
 - Virtual and In-Person appointments available
 - Watch for the construction in Johnston Hall!

What if I'm in crisis?

- ▶ Crisis Text Line - [Text UofG to 686868](#)
- ▶ Good2talk Helpline [1-866-925-5454](tel:1-866-925-5454) www.good2talk.ca
- ▶ 24-hour Indian Residential School Crisis Line - [1-866-925-4419](tel:1-866-925-4419)
- ▶ Victim Services Wellington – [519-824-1212](tel:519-824-1212) ext. [7304](tel:519-824-7304) or victim@vsw.on.ca
- ▶ Guelph-Wellington Women in Crisis (24/7 crisis line) – [519-836-5710](tel:519-836-5710) or adminrec@gwwomenincrisis.org
- ▶ Torchlight (24/7 toll-free) – [1-888-821-3760](tel:1-888-821-3760) or [519-821-3760](tel:519-821-3760)
- ▶ HERE 24/7 – [1-844-437-3247](tel:1-844-437-3247)