

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
BACHELOR OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Credit Unit Statement

The Bachelor of Arts and Sciences curriculum consists of broadly 7 different types of courses in the interdisciplinary study of social sciences, science, arts and humanities subjects. In each course, students can develop a deeper understanding of interdisciplinary knowledge and acquire transferable skills.

The majority of courses are 6-credit courses, but we also have a small number of 12-credit courses. Although we use 120-180 hours of student learning activity (including both contact hours and all other forms of student learning activity) as the norm for a 6-credit course, the contact hours and output requirements for different types of courses vary according to the learning modes employed. Normally, the contact hour for a standard 6-credit course is ranging from 24 to 36 hours.

1. Introductory courses (6 credits)

These courses introduce students to different science, social sciences, arts and humanities disciplines in order to provide them with a broad interdisciplinary education. Assessment is by a combination of essays, in-class quizzes, class participation, projects and /or presentations, totaling about 4,000-5,000 words and/or an examination (40-100% coursework, 0-60% exam).

2. Compulsory, core and elective disciplinary courses (6 credits)

The curriculum is based primarily upon courses offered by the programme majors or multidisciplinary second majors and minors. Different kinds of standard 6-credit courses are offered either as core courses or as electives in the programme majors or multidisciplinary majors and minors. Assessment is by a combination of essays, projects, and /or presentations totaling about 5,000-8,000 words and/or an examination (20-100% coursework, 0-80% exam).

3. Workshops / Laboratory courses (6 credits)

These courses aim at not only introducing and enriching the students' discipline-specific and research skills, but also encouraging group work through hands-on activities. They are taught by laboratory-based practicals, supplemented by lectures, workshops, tutorials, fieldwork-based practicals and/or field visits. Students are expected to actively participate in class discussions and spend an additional effort on self-study, preparation work for the laboratory, and/or writing reports. Assessment is by end-of-semester examination and practical assignments such as laboratory report, performance in class discussions and/or seminars, oral presentations, quizzes, proposals and/or essays with output not exceeding 8,000 words (0-70% exam, 30-100% coursework).

4. Field camps / Fieldwork courses (6 credits)

These courses aim at giving practical experience in a variety of contexts. Fieldwork may be conducted locally or overseas during reading week or summer. Fieldwork courses have a small number of lecture hours but are predominately practical in nature. Assessment is by a combination of field assignments and reports, a written report (3,500–8,000 words), a poster and/or other types of presentations (100% coursework).

5. Research / Project-based courses (6 or 12 credits)

The research courses aim at providing students with an opportunity to pursue their own research interests under the supervision of a teacher. Students explore the research methods from across the social sciences, science, arts and humanities, and through pursuing an original project in primary and secondary sources, develop interdisciplinary research skills. Students are generally expected to devote about 120-180 hours for a 6-credit course and 240-360 hours for a 12-credit course on the project in their third or final year of study. Contact hours may be minimal (6-36 hours for a 6-credit course and 12–72 hours for a 12-credit course) as students are actively engaged in individual research. Assessment takes the form of the graded research exercises, oral presentations, class participations, field work or lab reports and write-ups, a research report and/or dissertation, with a total output of approximately 5,000 words for a 6-credit course, or 10,000 words for a 12-credit course. (100% coursework).

6. Seminar courses (6 credits)

These courses deepen certain themes and topics in the discipline and emphasize critical reading, effective communication (writing and speaking), and research skills. Students are required to read primary source research articles, present seminars to the class, and conduct research projects or write research proposals. In addition, students are expected to actively participate in class discussions. Assessment is achieved through performance in class discussions and/or participations, seminar performance, essays and presentations, written reports/proposals, totaling about 1,000-5,000 words, and/or a final exam (50-100% coursework, 0-50% exam).

7. Internship course (12 credits)

The course enables students to work and learn in the professional world and local communities. They enable students not only to apply what they have learned from regular classes at the University to an experiential learning endeavor that demonstrates a real impact on society, but also to identify and analyze problems in a local community or work place. Assessment is normally based upon performance in work placement (240 hours of work), organization analysis (at least 800 words), integrated essay outline (500 words), reflective journal (at least 1,500 words), integrated essay (3,000 words) and/or presentation (100% coursework).

Updated on April 14, 2020.