



## **Information for Employers: McGill Law Program, Timeline and Grading System**

### **Program**

The Law program at McGill University is unique and highly competitive. All students obtain a joint Bachelor of Civil Law and Common Law (B.C.L. / LL.B.).

Our selective and holistic admissions process, in which our faculty members participate extensively, ensures our students are well-rounded, diverse and committed. The Faculty admits academically accomplished students from across Canada and around the world. Most students enter with a first-class honours university degree, and many have graduate degrees and/or professional experience. All students are required to be bilingual in English and French. Some students are admitted with a Diploma of Collegial Studies (D.C.S.) after completing a post-secondary college-level program unique to Quebec.

McGill Law is global and comparative, and the distinguished faculty members have exceptional international reputations. The renewed curriculum launched in 2016 features opportunities for problem-based learning, translation of knowledge into action, and the development of skills critical to engaged, effective and enlightened lawyers. Information about our curriculum can be found at <http://www.mcgill.ca/law/future>.

### **Timeline**

Our joint B.C.L. / LL.B. program, which requires the completion of 105 credits, is typically completed in 3.5 years.

Students who complete the program in 3.5 years may use the winter term of their 4<sup>th</sup> year to write licensing examinations, intern, pursue further studies, work, or travel. In some cases, students take advantage of the possibility of an extra term of studies and law-related activities and complete the two degrees in 4 years of study.

Students completing the program in 3.5 or 4 years are eligible to work as “second-year” students in the summer between their third and final year of studies, and thus they apply for “2L” summer positions before or during their third year of law school. They then begin articling, or in the US working as associates, after graduating in the following year.

About 15% of our students complete an accelerated program in 3 years, by taking an elective in first year and summer classes, and taking the maximum credits allowed during the final two academic years. These students apply for second-year summer positions on the same timeline as other Canadian and US law students.

We advise our students to think carefully about when they will complete their degree requirements and to be sure they are on track before applying for positions. They should indicate their class and expected month and year of graduation in their CV and cover letter, and should be able to explain their academic strategy clearly if they intend to complete the program in 3 years.

## Grading System and Grades Policy

<b>A</b>	4.0	<b>B-</b>	2.7
<b>A-</b>	3.7	<b>C+</b>	2.3
<b>B+</b>	3.3	<b>C</b>	2.0
<b>B</b>	3.0	<b>D</b>	1.0

In keeping with our commitment to academic excellence, the Faculty holds students to exceptionally rigorous standards, and our grade distributions are different from those at many other law schools.

Students with a GPA in the top 10% for an academic year are named to the **Dean's Honour List**, and this designation appears on transcripts. Individual student rankings are not compiled and the Faculty does not provide ranking letters.

Typically, courses with an enrolment of 25 or more students have an average of B- to B (2.7-3.0), and courses with an enrolment of fewer than 25 students have an average of B- to B+ (2.7-3.3). As first-year courses are often taught in larger groups, students' GPAs often improve slightly when they are upper-year students.

### Table of Cumulative Grade Point Averages: 2017-18 academic year

First-year students				
Grade	CGPA range	% of students*	Class	CGPA
A-/A	3.70-4.00	< 1	Top 10%	3.36
B+	3.30-3.69	11	Top 20%	3.23
B **	3.15-3.29	19	Top 50%	3.00
B **	3.00-3.14	20		
B-	2.70-2.99	32		
C/C+	2.00-2.69	18		

  

Upper-year students				
Grade	CGPA range	% of students*	Class	CGPA
A-/A	3.70-4.00	< 1	Top 10%	3.35
B+	3.30-3.69	16	Top 20%	3.24
B **	3.15-3.29	19	Top 50%	3.08
B **	3.00-3.14	26		
B-	2.70-2.99	25		
C/C+	2.00-2.69	14		

\* Percentages have been rounded, so the total may not equal 100.

\*\* Because of the large number of students with averages between 3.00 and 3.29 (B range), this grade has been divided in two to provide additional information.

Further details about our grading policies are available at <https://www.mcgill.ca/law-studies/courses-registration-exams/grades>.