Terminology	Explanation/ Definition	Remarks
Academic Year	An academic year comprises two semesters; the first semester to commence in September and end in December, and the second semester to commence in January and end in May/June. It includes, normally at the end of each semester, a period during which candidates are assessed.	An optional summer semester runs normally from late June to mid-August and is only available to non-final year undergraduates.
Add/Drop of Courses	Students are allowed to change the selected courses during the add/drop period, i.e. in the first two weeks of each semester.	No permission will be given to add/drop a course after the add/drop period.
Advanced Standing	Advanced standing may be granted to students in recognition of studies completed successfully before admission to the University (normally at post HKDSE or equivalent standard). Advanced standing credits granted shall be recorded on the transcripts but not be included in the calculation of GPA. Examples of granting advanced standing credits include students: 1) successfully completed any Degree/Diploma, etc. outside HKU (e.g. Associate Degree / Higher Diploma holders) and pursuit another degree at HKU; or 2) successfully completed a single degree/Integrated Double Degrees within HKU and further pursuit another Degree at HKU; or 3) who have withdrawn from a programme in the middle and then re-admitted to the same or other programmes.	Students who wish to apply for advanced standing must complete the form "Application for Granting of Advanced Standing" and submit it to the Faculty Office via the Science Online Application Submission System (OASS) by the specified deadline before the commencement of their first year of study. Late application or application made in subsequent year of studies will not be considered.
Capstone Course	All students must undertake at least one capstone course approved in the Science major / Professional core which requires students to integrate knowledge and skills they have acquired to accomplish some nontrivial tasks in their areas of disciplinary study. The credit requirement of capstone course(s) for each major may be different and details can be found in the syllabuses.	If any BSc III/BSc(ActuarSc)III/ BASc(AppliedAI) III or above students wish to apply for exemption from taking a capstone course in the second (Science) major, you have to complete the form "Application for Exemption from Taking a Capstone Course in the Second (Science) Major" via the Science Online Application Submission System (OASS).
Course Duration	1 semester.	Some 12-credit courses (e.g. project) are year long.

Terminology	Explanation/ Definition	Remarks
Course Load	<u>For BSc / BSc(ActuarSc)* / BASc(AppliedAI)* students</u> The normal course load is 60 credits a year. You are normally required to take at least 60 credits, of which not fewer than 24, nor more than 30 credits in any one semester (except the summer semester). You may, of your own volition, take additional credits not exceeding 6 credits in each semester, and/or further credits during the summer semester, accumulating up to a maximum of 72 credits (including the summer semester courses and internship courses, if any) in one academic year. * For students admitted in 2024-25 or before	<u>For BSc / BSc(ActuarSc)* / BASc(AppliedAI)* students</u> With the special permission of the Board of the Faculty, you may exceed the annual study load of 72 credits in a given academic year provided that the total number of credits taken does not exceed the maximum curriculum study load of 288 credits for the normative period of 4 years study. Where students are required to make up for failed credits, the Board of the Faculty may give permission for students to exceed the annual study load of 72 credits provided that the total number of credits taken does not exceed the maximum curriculum study load of 432 credits for the maximum period of registration specified in the curriculum regulations which is 6 years for the BSc, BSc(ActuarSc)* and BASc(AppliedAI)* programmes. For students who need to continue their studies beyond the normative study period (i.e. 4 years), the number of credits of courses they are allowed to take should not be greater than those required for graduation, plus a maximum of 12 credits. * For students admitted in 2024-25 or before

Terminology	Explanation/ Definition	Remarks
Course Load (continued)	For BSc&MRes students In your first 2 years of study, the normal course load is 72 credits of undergraduate courses per year, with no less than 30 credits and no more than 36 credits in the first/second semester. You may, of your own volition, take additional credits not exceeding 6 credits in each semester, and/or further credits during the summer semester, accumulating up to a maximum of 84 credits in one academic year. You should, however, note that the total number of credits of undergraduate courses taken cannot exceed the maximum curriculum study load of 288 credits (with inclusive of those advanced standing credits and/or transferred credits granted, if any) for the normative period of study. Under normal circumstances, you should take and complete a 3-credit postgraduate course on research ethics (i.e. INRE6033) in year 2. In your senior years (i.e. 3rd and 4th years) of study, the normal course load is 78 credits of undergraduate and postgraduate courses per year, with no less than 30 credits and no more than 36 credits in the first/second semester. You may, of your own volition, take additional credits not exceeding 6 credits in each semester, and/or further credits during the summer semester, accumulating up to a maximum of 84 credits in one academic year. The sample study plans can be found at https://www.scifac.hku.hk/current/ug/about/smc/curriculum for your reference and planning ahead. For BSc&LLB students The normal course load is 60 credits a year. You are normally required to take at least 60 credits, of which not fewer than 24, nor more than 30 credits in any one semester (except the summer semester). You may, of your own volition, take additional credits not exceeding 6 credits in each semester, and/or further credits during the summer semester, accumulating up to a maximum of 72 credits (including the summer semester courses and internship courses, if any) in one academic year.	For BSc&MRes students Candidates shall normally be required to take not fewer than 60 credits nor more than 84 credits of undergraduate or undergraduate plus postgraduate courses in any academic year with a waiver of Regulation UG4(a) to (c) of the Regulations of First Degree Curricula, unless otherwise permitted or required by the Board of the Faculty. The maximum curriculum study load for the normative period of study and for the maximum period of registration of undergraduate courses are 288 credits and 432 credits respectively. For BSc&LLB students With the special permission of the Board of Studies, you may exceed the annual study load of 72 credits in a given academic year provided that the total number of credits taken does not exceed the maximum curriculum study load of 360 credits for the normative period of 5 years study.

Terminology	Explanation/ Definition	Remarks
Course Load (continued)		Where students are required to make up for failed credits, the Board of Studies may give permission for students to exceed the annual study load of 72 credits provided that the total number of credits taken does not exceed the maximum curriculum study load of 576 credits for the maximum period of registration specified in the curriculum regulations which is 8 years for the BSc&LLB programme.
Course Co-requisite	Co-requisite means a course which candidates must take in conjunction with the course in question.	
Course Pre-requisite	Pre-requisite means a course or a group of courses which candidates must have completed successfully or a requirement which candidate must have fulfilled before being permitted to take the course in question. The system will disapprove the course in question automatically if its pre-requisite cannot be met.	If you wish to select courses which you do not meet the prerequisite, you have to seek endorsement (Science courses: via the Science Online Application Submission System (OASS); Non-Science courses: written / via email) from the Course Selection Adviser(s) (or the Representative(s)) of the department(s)/school(s) offering the course(s) by completing the "Course Approval Form" via the Science Online Application Submission System (OASS).
Course Replacement	Double-counting of courses up to a maximum of 24 credits is permissible with double majors and professional core-major combination. For cases with 24 or less double-counted credits, the student must make up an equivalent number of credits by taking other courses offered by any Faculty. Double counting of credits is not permissible for certain situations and details can be found at https://webapp.science.hku.hk/sr4/servlet/enquiry. For students who wish to take any majors/minors offered by non-Science faculties (e.g. HKU Business School), please be advised to directly check with the relevant faculty for the specified replacement course.	If you wish to apply for course replacement, you have to complete the form "Application for Taking a Replacement Course" via the Science Online Application Submission System (OASS).

Terminology	Explanation/ Definition	Remarks
Course Unit	6 credits.	A small number of courses are 12 credits.
Credit Transfer	Credit transfer may be granted to students for course completed at other institutions, whether inside or outside of Hong Kong, at any time during the students' candidature at the University. Example of granting credit transfer includes HKU students going out for one semester/year exchange study.	Students who wish to apply for credit transfer must submit their application via the "Online Credit Transfer Application System" at least one month before the start date of their exchange/visiting study at the host institution.
Grade Points	Grade points are standardised measurements of candidates' academic achievement in courses taken to satisfy the requirements of the degree curriculum and are expressed as a scale prescribed in these regulations.	
Grade Point Average (GPA)	Grade point average is a numerical measure of a candidate's academic achievement over a specified period of time. Each course attempted (including each failed course) is assigned a numerical value, with all courses carrying equal weighting. This numerical value is the product of grade points earned for the course and the credit value of that course. The Grade Point Average is the sum of these numerical values divided by the total number of credits attempted: $GPA = \frac{\sum_{i} \text{Course Grade Point X Course Credit Value}}{\sum_{i} \text{Course Credit Value}}$ (where "i" is the number of all passed and failed courses taken by the student over a specified period.)	
Semester GPA	Semester Grade Point Average or Semester GPA is the GPA in respect of courses attempted by a candidate (including failed courses) during a given semester.	
Year GPA	Year Grade Point Average or Year GPA is the GPA in respect of courses attempted by a candidate (including failed courses) during a given academic year.	
Cumulative GPA	Cumulative Grade Point Average or Cumulative GPA is the GPA in respect of courses attempted by a candidate (including failed courses) at the time of calculation.	

Terminology	Explanation/ Definition	Remarks
Graduation GPA	Graduation Grade Point Average or Graduation GPA is the GPA in respect of courses attempted by a candidate (including failed courses) at the point of graduation. For student intakes from 2017-18 to 2024-25 who have successfully completed six Common Core courses, the calculation of Graduation GPA is subject to the proviso that either five Common Core courses with the highest grades (covering all four Areas of Inquiry), or all six courses will be counted towards Graduation GPA, depending on which generates the higher Graduation GPA. For students in the 2025-26 intake and thereafter who have successfully completed six 6-credit Common Core courses, the calculation of Graduation GPA is subject to the proviso that either five 6-credit Common Core courses with the highest grades (covering all five Areas of Inquiry), or all six 6-credit courses will be counted towards Graduation GPA, depending on which generates the higher Graduation GPA. For students who have successfully completed two 3-credit Common Core Microcredentials in place of one 6-credit Common Core course, the average grade point of the two 3-credit courses will be treated as the grade point of one 6-credit Common Core course.	For the special Common Core Proviso in the Determination of the Graduation GPA, students may refer to the Common Core website (https://commoncore.hku.hk/special-proviso/) for details.
Level of Course *(for Science courses only)*	Introductory level courses (course code starting with 1 and 2) include levels 1 and 2 courses. They are normally taken in Year 1 and 2. Level 1 courses: give students a very general overview of the subject and basic principles and methods. They serve as 'tasters' as well as free elective courses for the non-faculty students. A Level 1 course requires no, certain HKDSE subject or a level 1 course as prerequisite. Level 2 courses: aimed as foundation courses in a discipline for students who have declared their major of study. They cover concepts and methods essential for preparing the student to progress into the advanced-level courses in the major. A Level 2 course requires a level 1 course or a level 2 course as prerequisite. Advanced level courses (course code starting with 3, 4 or 7) include levels 3, 4 and 7 courses. They are normally taken in Year 3 and 4.	

Terminology	Explanation/ Definition	Remarks
Level of Course *(for Science courses only)* (continued)	**Level 3 courses**: These courses are the building blocks of the discipline. A Level 3 course requires a level 2 course or a level 3 course as prerequisite. **Level 4 courses**: advanced courses in a sub-field of the discipline, research-based courses, or capstone courses that require students to apply and integrate knowledge learnt in previous courses. Level 4 courses are normally taken in the final year of the study. A Level 4 course requires a level 3 course or a level 4 course as prerequisite. **Level 7 courses**: graduate courses that are offered to the more able undergraduate students as electives.	
Majors and Minors	A number of Science majors and minors are available each year. **BSc students** must complete at least one Science major as the primary major for the award of the BSc degree. In addition to the primary Science major, students may take a second major or a minor in a Science or non-Science discipline. Students shall take at least 96 credits of the required courses as prescribed in the regular major programme, or at least 144 credits (or a higher credit requirement by the accredited bodies) of the prescribed courses in the intensive major programme, of the BSc degree curriculum.	Some non-Science faculties may set a minimum requirement for their majors and minors offered. You should check with the relevant Faculty for the detailed requirements.
	BSc&MRes students must complete one Science intensive major as the primary major for the award of the BSc&MRes degrees. In addition to the Science intensive major, students may take a minor in a Science or non-Science discipline. Students shall take at least 144 credits (or a higher credit requirement by the accredited bodies) of the prescribed courses in the intensive major programme, of the BSc degree curriculum.	

Terminology	Explanation/ Definition	Remarks
Majors and Minors (continued)	**BSc&LLB students** must complete one Science regular major as the primary major for the award of the BSc&LLB degrees. Students shall take at least 96 credits of the required courses as prescribed in the regular major programme of the BSc degree curriculum.	
	BSc(ActuarSc) students* may optionally take a major or a minor in a Science or non-Science discipline, provided that they fully satisfy the course requirements.	* For students admitted in 2024-25 or before
	BASc(AppliedAI) students* may optionally take a second major or a minor in a Science or non-Science discipline, provided that they fully satisfy the course requirements.	
Required Courses	Required courses refer to those disciplinary core and disciplinary elective courses in the Science major/minor, BSc(ActuarSc)* and BASc(AppliedAI)* degree curriculum that you take to fulfil the requirements. 'Disciplinary core course' or 'Disciplinary Core' means any courses offered in the same major or minor programme or the professional core which must be taken by candidates to fulfil the curriculum requirements as specified in the syllabuses of the degree curriculum. 'Disciplinary elective course' or 'Disciplinary Elective' means any courses offered in the same major or minor programme or the professional core which can be taken by candidates to fulfil the curriculum requirements as specified in the syllabuses of the degree curriculum.	Details of the BSc syllabuses (major, minor and courses), BSc(ActuarSc)* syllabuses (degree curriculum & courses) and BASc(AppliedAI)* syllabuses (degree curriculum & courses) can be found at https://webapp.science.hku.hk/sr4/servlet/enquiry. The full list of Research Postgraduate courses in the BSc&MRes degree curriculum can be found at https://www.scifac.hku.hk/current/ug/academic/syllabuses. The full list of LLB Professional Core courses in the BSc&LLB degree curriculum can be found at https://www.scifac.hku.hk/current/ug/academic/syllabuses. * For students admitted in 2024-25 or before

Terminology	Explanation/ Definition	Remarks
Science Foundation Courses *(For Science majors)*	2 Science Foundation courses, Scientific Method and Reasoning, and Fundamentals of Modern Science are offered as disciplinary core (compulsory) courses in any of the 14 regular (11 regular from 2025-26) or 7 intensive Science majors to give students a common science experience and prepare them with sufficient background to pursue any of Science majors.	All 4-year students taking a Science major (as major 1 or major 2) should enrol in the 2 Science Foundation courses in their first year of study. Candidates who have been admitted to Year 1 in 2020-21 (and thereafter) and have achieved any one of the following qualifications are exempted from taking SCNC1111: • Level 4 or above in Mathematics Extended Part Module 1 or 2 in the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) • Level 5 or above in Mathematics Higher Level in International Baccalaureate (IB) • Grade B or above in Mathematics and Further Mathematics in General Certificate of Education Advanced Level (GCEAL) • Mathematics qualification in Gao Kao will be considered on a case-by-case basis It is optional for them to take the course SCNC1111. Those who are eligible for exemption and do not take this course in their first year of study should take a 6-credit disciplinary elective course in the science major in lieu. Candidates who have been admitted to Year 1 in 2021-22 (and thereafter) and have achieved any one of the following qualifications are exempted from taking SCNC1112:

Terminology	Explanation/ Definition	Remarks
Science Foundation Courses *(For Science majors)* (continued)		• Level 4 or above in Biology, Chemistry, and Physics in the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) • Level 5 or above in Biology, Chemistry, and Physics Higher Level in International Baccalaureate (IB) • Grade B or above in Biology, Chemistry, and Physics in General Certificate of Education Advanced Level (GCEAL) • Biology, Chemistry, and Physics qualification in Gao Kao will be considered on a case-by-case basis It is optional for them to take the course SCNC1112. Those who are eligible for exemption and do not take this course in their first year of study should take a 6-credit disciplinary elective course in the science major in lieu.
Teaching Weeks	Each semester (except the summer semester) includes 12 teaching weeks, a reading week, and a revision week.	
Timetable Clashes	The system will disapprove your course automatically if it has timetable clash with another course.	If you wish to select such courses, you have to seek endorsement (Science courses: via the Science Online Application Submission System (OASS); Non-Science courses: written / via email) from the Course Selection Adviser(s) (or the Representative(s)) of the department(s)/school(s) offering the course(s) by completing the "Course Approval Form" via the Science Online Application Submission System (OASS).