



# **The New SUSSE Undergraduate Curriculum**

**FAQs for New Students**

## Overview

### 1. What is the new SUSS curriculum?

The new SUSS curriculum consists of:

- A new suite of SUSS Core courses, streamlined majors and more space for free electives, minor and/or second major in the undergraduate curriculum.
- A new academic calendar comprising two 12-week semesters and a special semester.

The new SUSS curriculum will be introduced in full to undergraduate students who enrol from the July 2023 semester.

## 12-week Semester

### 2. Does the 12-week semester apply to all students?

Yes, the 12-week semester applies to all students (except Law students) from the July 2023 semester, regardless of their enrolment semester.

### 3. How many contact hours are there for a typical course (i.e. 5cu course)?

18 contact hours, comprising 6 weeks of 3-hour classes. For selected courses, this can go up to 24 contact hours, comprising 8 weeks of 3-hour classes.

### 4. How will classes be delivered?

For a typical course, classes can be delivered:

- Face-to-face, on campus
- Online, via Zoom or other online platforms
- Combination of the two (e.g. 2 face-to-face and 4 online classes, 1 face-to-face and 5 online classes)

### 5. How will classes be scheduled in the 12-week semester?

Classes will be scheduled according to the needs of the course. The following are a few examples.

	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Week 8	Week 9	Week 10	Week 11	Week 12
<b>Example 1:</b>	Lesson 1		Lesson 2		Lesson 3		Lesson 4		Lesson 5		Lesson 6	
<b>Example 2:</b>		Lesson 1		Lesson 2		Lesson 3		Lesson 4		Lesson 5		Lesson 6
<b>Example 3:</b>	Lesson 1	Lesson 2	Lesson 3	Lesson 4	Lesson 5	Lesson 6						
<b>Example 4:</b>							Lesson 1	Lesson 2	Lesson 3	Lesson 4	Lesson 5	Lesson 6
<b>Example 5:</b>	Lesson 1		Lesson 2	Lesson 3		Lesson 4		Lesson 5	Lesson 6		Lesson 7	
<b>Example 6:</b>	Lesson 1	Lesson 2	Lesson 3	Lesson 4	Lesson 5	Lesson 6			Lesson 7	Lesson 8		

**6. What are the benefits of the 12-week semester?**

The 12-week semester is better able to support deep learning. Students will have more time to understand the course content, consult their instructor, and complete their assignments to achieve the learning outcomes.

**7. How many semesters are there?**

There are 2 regular semesters in a year:

- January semester: from January to April
- July semester: from August to November

There will be a special semester from May to June.

**8. What is the difference between a regular semester and a special semester?**

Most courses will be conducted in the regular semester.

The special semester is set aside for internships, work attachments, overseas trips, short courses (e.g. 2.5cu courses), and typical courses that are conducted in a compressed format.

**9. Are there restrictions on courses that can be taken in the special semester?**

Students can take any course in the special semester, as long as it is offered in the special semester and they have sufficient credit units left to take the course.

The first special semester is in May 2024.

**10. How does the academic calendar look like?**

The academic calendar for 2023 and 2024 can be found in Appendix A.

**11. As a full-time undergraduate student, I need to go on a 24-week work attachment. There are only 2 months in a special semester. Is it possible to continue my work attachment during the regular semester?**

Yes. Please approach the Career Development Office for more information. It is not compulsory to attend classes in the semester that is set aside for work attachment, though this may help to reduce the course load in the final year. Going on work attachment and attending evening classes is a major undertaking, and requires discipline and perseverance.

**Curriculum Structure**

**12. How many credit units do I have to complete for majors and minors?**

Area of study	No. of credit units
Major	80cu
Second major	60cu

Minor	30cu
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Exceptions may be made to the credit units of selected majors and minors, e.g. in order to adhere to accreditation or professional requirements.

### 13. What is a major?

The major is the primary area of study for undergraduate students. A degree programme typically revolves around the major.

### 14. What is a second major?

The second major broadens or complements the knowledge and training attained in the major. It is applicable to full-time undergraduate students only.

The second major is reflected on the degree transcript only. It is not reflected on the degree scroll.

Students cannot take a second major that is from the same discipline as the major.

### 15. What is a minor?

The minor offers breadth for undergraduate students to explore additional areas of study.

The minor is reflected on the degree transcript only. It is not reflected on the degree scroll.

### 16. How many credit units do I have to complete for the revamped SUSS Core?

Student type	No. of credit units
Full-time undergraduate degree	60cu
Part-time undergraduate degree	20cu
Part-time undergraduate degree with Honours	30cu

### 17. Why must I do SUSS Core?

The SUSS Core is to impart all students with real-world values, skills and knowledge in order to navigate a world that is one of constant disruption. This includes courses in the areas of focus of community mindedness, digital and data literacy, effective writing and communication, critical thinking and problem solving, learning to learn, creativity and user experience, self-management and wellness, and interdisciplinary process.

### 18. Is there a recommended time frame to complete the SUSS Core courses?

Students are strongly recommended to complete the SUSS Core courses within the first two years in their programme of study.

### 19. What is the part-time undergraduate curriculum like?

Part-time undergraduate students are required to complete 130cu and 170cu for a basic degree and Honours degree respectively.

The following options are available for a part-time undergraduate basic degree (130cu):

<b>Part-time undergraduate basic degree: major only (130cu)</b>		
SUSS Core (20cu)	Major (80cu)	Free electives (30cu)

<b>Part-time undergraduate basic degree: major + minor (130cu)</b>		
SUSS Core (20cu)	Major (80cu)	Minor (30cu)

The following options are available for a part-time undergraduate degree with Honours (170cu):

<b>Part-time undergraduate degree with Honours: major only (170cu)</b>		
SUSS Core (30cu)	Major (100cu)	Free electives (40cu)

<b>Part-time undergraduate degree with Honours: major + minor (170cu)</b>			
SUSS Core (30cu)	Major (100cu)	Minor (30cu)	Free electives (10cu)

## 20. What is the full-time undergraduate curriculum like?

Full-time students are required to complete 200cu for a direct Honours degree. The following options are available:

<b>Full-time undergraduate degree: major only (200cu)</b>		
SUSS Core (60cu)	Major (80cu)	Free electives (60cu)

<b>Full-time undergraduate degree: major + minor (200cu)</b>			
SUSS Core (60cu)	Major (80cu)	Minor (30cu)	Free electives (30cu)

<b>Full-time undergraduate degree: major + 2 minors (200cu)</b>			
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SUSS Core (60cu)	Major (80cu)	Minor (30cu)	Minor (30cu)
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<b>Full-time undergraduate degree: major + second major (200cu)</b>		
SUSS Core (60cu)	Major (80cu)	Second major (60cu)

**21. What are free electives?**

Free electives are courses taken outside the SUSS Core, major, second major and minor.

The following [list](#) of courses are offered as free electives.

**22. Do all full-time undergraduate students have the option to take a second major?**

No, not all full-time undergraduate programmes offer students the option to take a second major. Please refer to the following table for more information.

Full-time undergraduate programme	Option of a second major?
Bachelor of Accountancy	No
Bachelor of Early Childhood Education	No
Bachelor of Human Resource Management	Yes
Bachelor of Public Safety and Security	Yes
Bachelor of Science in Business Analytics	Yes
Bachelor of Science in Finance	Yes
Bachelor of Science in Marketing	Yes
Bachelor of Science in Information and Communication Technology	No
Bachelor of Science in Supply Chain Management	Yes
Bachelor of Social Work	No

**23. Can I take a second major from another school?**

Yes, students can take a second major from any school as long as they meet the entry requirements of the second major, such as an interview or language proficiency.

**24. When can I declare a second major?**

Students can declare a second major from the first semester of study, and take courses from the second major from the second semester of study.

**25. Can I change/drop the second major later?**

Yes, students can change/drop the second major via the Minor/Second Major Declaration Portal.

**26. Can part-time undergraduate students pursue a second major?**

Currently, there is insufficient space in the curriculum for part-time undergraduate students to pursue a second major.

**27. What second majors are offered?**

The list of second majors can be found on the SUSS website and is subject to changes.

**28. Are students required to complete an applied or capstone project in the second major?**

Students are required to complete an applied or capstone project in the major (also known as first major) to attain an Honours degree. Students do not need to complete an additional applied or capstone project in the second major.

However, students pursuing a second major are welcomed to complete an applied or capstone project which integrates the two areas of study.

**29. Are students required to complete a minimum number of higher-level courses?**

Higher-level courses are level 3 and above courses (e.g. BUS360, PSY352).

The requirements are as follow:

Area of study	Minimum no. of level 3 and above courses
Major	20cu
Second major	20cu
Minor	10cu

**Course Registration**

**30. How many courses can I take in a semester?**

Regular semester

(a) Full-time undergraduate students

There is no change to the current limit: Maximum of 40cu of courses, including SUSS Core courses, of which a maximum of 30cu will be from first attempt and/or repeat courses and the remaining 10cu will be from courses for which student is re-sitting examinations, if any. You may request to do an additional 5cu if you have a CGPA above 3.0.

(b) Part-time undergraduate students

There is no change to the current limit: Maximum of 30cu of courses, excluding SUSS Core courses, of which a maximum of 20cu will be from first attempt and/or repeat courses and the remaining 10cu will be from courses for which student is re-sitting examinations, if any.

(c) Law students

There is no change to the current limit: Maximum of 30cu of courses, of which no more than 20cu will be from first attempt and/or repeat courses and the remaining 10cu will be from courses for which student is re-sitting examinations, if any.

### Special semester

(d) All undergraduate students

Maximum of 15cu of courses, excluding SUSS Core courses, of which a maximum of 10cu will be from first attempt and/or repeat courses and the remaining 5cu will be from courses for which student is re-sitting examinations, if any.

### 31. When is course registration?

Semester	Course Registration
January semester	October of the preceding year
July semester	April of the same year
Special semester	October of the preceding year

### 32. What is re-sit and repeat?

A student can re-sit the examination of a course if:

- He or she has withdrawn from the course, and attains a minimum Overall Continuous Assessment Score (OCAS) of 40 and fulfils the mandatory requirements of the course.
- He or she failed the examination, but attains a minimum Overall Examinable Score (OES) of 15, a minimum OCAS of 40 and fulfils the mandatory requirements of the course.

A student will need to repeat a course if he or she does not meet the aforementioned criteria to re-sit the examination of a course.

### 33. Will I be able to resit or repeat a course in the next immediate semester?

Scenario	Able to re-sit or repeat?
(a) You have failed a course in the July semester, and the course is next offered in the upcoming January semester.	Yes, in the January semester.
(b) You have failed a course in the July semester, and the course is next offered in the upcoming special semester.	Yes, in the special semester.
(c) You have failed a course in the January semester, and the course is next offered in the upcoming special semester.	No
(d) You have failed a course in the January semester, and the course is next offered in the upcoming July semester.	Yes, in the July semester.
(e) You have failed a course in the special semester, and the course is next offered in the upcoming July semester.	Yes, in the July semester.
(f) You have failed a course in the special semester, and the course is next offered in the upcoming January semester.	Yes, in the January semester.



## **Pass/Fail Option**

### **34. What is the pass/fail option?**

The pass/fail option allows students to convert the letter grade awarded for a course to a 'pass' or 'fail' grade.

A letter grade of 'F' is automatically converted to a 'Fail'. Students will need to re-sit or repeat the course.

Grades awarded as a result of the pass/fail option have no Grade Point Value (GPV) and are not included in the computation of the Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA).

### **35. Why is there a pass/fail option?**

The pass/fail option is intended to relieve the focus on grades and support students' transition into the university. It can be exercised on any courses, including SUSS Core courses.

### **36. How many credit units can I exercise the pass/fail option on?**

The number of credit units that students can exercise the pass/fail option is determined by the mode of study, type of programme and type of course.

The following is applicable to all students except those enrolled in the School of Law.

	Full-time undergraduate degree (200cu)	Part-time undergraduate degree with Honours (170cu)	Part-time undergraduate degree (130cu)
SUSS Core courses	Up to 40cu	Up to 20cu	Up to 20cu
All other courses	Up to 10cu	Up to 20cu	Up to 20cu
Total	Up to 50cu	Up to 40cu	Up to 40cu

### **37. Is there any grade restriction in exercising the pass/fail option?**

There is no grade restriction in exercising the pass/fail option.

### **38. When can I exercise my pass/fail option?**

Students can exercise the pass/fail option within a stipulated time after the release of their examination results in each semester.

### **39. Can I exercise the pass/fail option more than once for a course?**

The pass/fail option can only be exercised once for each course.

## Appendix A: Academic Calendar



### Singapore University of Social Sciences Academic and Event Calendars for 2023 (Undergraduate Programmes)

#### (A) Academic Calendar

JANUARY SEMESTER			JULY SEMESTER		
Calendar Week	Week Starting	Academic Events	Calendar Week	Week Starting	Academic Events
1	02 Jan		27	03 Jul	
2	09 Jan		28	10 Jul	
3	16 Jan		29	17 Jul	
4	23 Jan	Class Week 1	30	24 Jul	
5	30 Jan	Class Week 2	31	31 Jul	
6	06 Feb	Class Week 3	32	07 Aug	Class Week 0
7	13 Feb	Class Week 4	33	14 Aug	Class Week 1
8	20 Feb	Class Week 5	34	21 Aug	Class Week 2
9	27 Feb	Class Week 6	35	28 Aug	Class Week 3
10	06 Mar	Class Week 7	36	04 Sep	Class Week 4
11	13 Mar	Class Week 8	37	11 Sep	Class Week 5
12	20 Mar	Class Week 9	38	18 Sep	Class Week 6
13	27 Mar	Class Week 10	39	25 Sep	Class Week 7
14	03 Apr	Class Week 11	40	02 Oct	Class Week 8
15	10 Apr	Class Week 12	41	09 Oct	Class Week 9
16	17 Apr	Class Week 13	42	16 Oct	Class Week 10
17	24 Apr	Class Week 14	43	23 Oct	Class Week 11
18	01 May	Self Revision + Re-sit Revision Lecture	44	30 Oct	Class Week 12
19	08 May	Self Revision + Re-sit Revision Lecture	45	06 Nov	Self Revision + Re-sit Revision Lecture
20	15 May	Examinations	46	13 Nov	Examinations
21	22 May	Examinations	47	20 Nov	Examinations
22	29 May		48	27 Nov	
23	05 Jun		49	04 Dec	
24	12 Jun		50	11 Dec	
25	19 Jun		51	18 Dec	
26	26 Jun		52	25 Dec	

\*The University reserves the right to amend and/or revise the above schedule without any prior notification.

**Singapore University of Social Sciences  
Academic and Event Calendars for 2024  
(Undergraduate Programmes)**

**(A) Academic Calendar**

JANUARY SEMESTER + SPECIAL SEMESTER			JULY SEMESTER		
Calendar Week	Week Starting	Academic Events	Calendar Week	Week Starting	Academic Events
1	01 Jan		27	01 Jul	
2	08 Jan	Class Week 0	28	08 Jul	
3	15 Jan	Class Week 1	29	15 Jul	
4	22 Jan	Class Week 2	30	22 Jul	
5	29 Jan	Class Week 3	31	29 Jul	
6	05 Feb	Class Week 4	32	05 Aug	Class Week 0
7	12 Feb	Class Week 5	33	12 Aug	Class Week 1
8	19 Feb	Class Week 6	34	19 Aug	Class Week 2
9	26 Feb	Class Week 7	35	26 Aug	Class Week 3
10	04 Mar	Class Week 8	36	02 Sep	Class Week 4
11	11 Mar	Class Week 9	37	09 Sep	Class Week 5
12	18 Mar	Class Week 10	38	16 Sep	Class Week 6
13	25 Mar	Class Week 11	39	23 Sep	Class Week 7
14	01 Apr	Class Week 12	40	30 Sept	Class Week 8
15	08 Apr	Self Revision + Re-sit Revision Lecture	41	07 Oct	Class Week 9
16	15 Apr	Examinations	42	14 Oct	Class Week 10
17	22 Apr	Examinations	43	21 Oct	Class Week 11
18	29 Apr		44	28 Oct	Class Week 12
19	06 May	Special Sem Week 1	45	04 Nov	Self Revision + Re-sit Revision Lecture
20	13 May	Special Sem Week 2	46	11 Nov	Examinations
21	20 May	Special Sem Week 3	47	18 Nov	Examinations
22	27 May	Special Sem Week 4	48	25 Nov	
23	03 Jun	Special Sem Week 5	49	02 Dec	
24	10 Jun	Special Sem Week 6	50	09 Dec	
25	17 Jun	Self Revision + Special Sem Examinations	51	16 Dec	
26	24 Jun		52	23 Dec	

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