Get Started Online Module 2
Program & Course Selection

Slide 1
The second module will review the information about program and course selection. Please make sure that you watch the first module before watching second module.

Slide 2
Unless you were directly admitted to a certain program, you will need to choose and apply to the program(s) at the end of your first year.

When you are selecting your programs, a good starting point would be to review the types of programs that are offered.

Here are a couple of questions you need to ask when you are exploring your program options. You can find more information about the programs, by clicking on the word calendar on this screen. The calendar contains information about program requirements, admission information, and recommended first year courses.

If you are wondering about what types of career opportunities are related to each of program, you can click on the Career tipsheets on this slide. This will take you to the Academic Advising & Career Centre website. Here, you will find a list of occupations and career resources which could be helpful in selecting the right program.

Slide 3
UTSC offers over 70 programs, and they are either limited or unlimited.

It’s important to know the difference between the two types of programs because the admission procedures are different. The limited programs have a set number of spaces for students while the unlimited programs do not. The limited programs are not necessarily better than the unlimited programs.

Once you complete 4 credits at the end of your first year, you need to enroll in programs.

To apply to the limited programs, you need to complete specific courses. Acceptance into the program is based on your CGPA. This usually means that these programs are competitive. You can apply to the limited programs on ACORN twice a year, at the end of the winter and summer semesters.

The unlimited programs on the other hand have enough spaces for students who want to enroll in these programs and they are open to all students. There are no enrolment requirements, and you can enroll on AOCON at any time.

If you change your mind, you can switch into other programs. You can also choose programs from completely different subject areas. Also, you are allowed to complete program in areas that are different from the category you were admitted into.
**Slide 4**

Here is an example of a course description in the calendar. It's important to learn how to read the course description. This will help you to figure out the course sequencing and prevent you from incurring any extra credits.

From the course code, you can decipher several pieces of information. PHY is the course subject area. In this case, this is a physics course.

The courses level ranges from A to D. A indicates that this is the most elementary level course. D level courses are the most advanced.

21 is the course identifier and in most cases the number has no significance.

H indicates that the credit value of this course is a half credit. Y courses are worth a full credit.

3 is the campus identifier and this will indicate where the course is being held. 3 means that this is a UTSC course.

**Slide 5**

When you read the course description you will notice that there may be some requirements listed at the bottom.

The prerequisites are courses you need to take before you are qualified to take this course. If you register in a course without the pre-requisite, you may be removed from the course.

Corequisites are courses you must take in the same semester unless you have passed these courses previously.

Exclusions are courses that are very similar to this course. If you have taken any courses listed here, you cannot take this course for credit and this will not be used toward your degree requirement.

Breath requirement indicates the breadth categories this course belongs to.

There are two types of brackets. The square bracket indicates a group of courses and the round bracket indicates courses that are no longer offered.

**Slide 6**

Let’s look at an example of a course sequence. As you could see here, you must take the 2 A level biology courses in order to take the B level courses. Then you can take the C level and move onto the D level course.
Slide 7

When you select your courses, take a moment to read the Calendar carefully. When you enrol in your courses on ACORN, it may not flag problems with prerequisites, corequisites, and exclusions. If you enrol in a course without the prerequisite, you will be removed the course.

When you register in your courses, you need to pick courses for the fall and winter semesters. If you wait to sign up for the winter courses, they will most likely be full. If a course is full, you may have the option of joining the waitlist. If you are the first person on the waitlist, and someone drops out you will be added to the course. If you are on the waitlist, try to check your status on ACORN on a regular basis to see if you have been added to the course.

Slide 8

If you are not doing well in a course and this is affecting your GPA, you can drop this course. Make sure you drop the course by the deadline. Consider this especially, if you are in a program which requires you to maintain a minimum GPA.

There are some questions you need to consider if you are thinking about dropping a course. Is it a program requirement? When is it offered again? Is it a pre-requisite for a course that I’m taking next semester? Is this going to affect my OSAP? If you need help to weigh your options, you can drop by the Academic Advising & Career Centre to talk to a staff member.

If you received a minimum of 50% in a course, you cannot take it again for credit. Also, if you failed a course and you take it again, both will count toward your GPA.

You can take courses at other UofT campuses. In your first 4.0 credits at UTSC, only 1.0 credit can be from another campus. If you are taking a program requirement at another campus, check with your program supervisor to make sure that it could be used toward your program. Overall, you can complete up to 5 credits toward your degree at UTSC at other campuses.

Credit/no credit is a great opportunity to “try out” a course without risking your GPA. You can use this option for electives and breadth requirements, but you can’t use this option for program requirements. To receive a credit, a student must earn a final grade of at least 50%. Grades below that will be noted as No Credit on the transcript. You can refer to the Registrar’s website for more information.
During your time at UTSC, think about planning ahead. Here are some things to keep in mind:

If you are thinking applying to professional or grad school, there may be certain courses you need to complete. The Academic Advising & Career Centre could help you to find information regarding the course requirements.

If you are in a limited program or intend to apply to one after your first year, make sure you take the courses required for these programs.

Keep in mind, you are required to follow the program requirements of the year you select your programs. You will be selecting your programs when you have earned at least 4.0 credits. For most of you, that will be next April. So, you will be following program requirements listed in next year’s calendar. If the requirements change later on, you can choose to follow the later calendar if they work in your favour. If you run into any issues you can always talk to an Academic & Learning Strategist or your program supervisor.

Also, you don’t have to take all your breath requirements in your first year.

The number of courses you take is up to you, but most students in their first year take five courses per semester. When you make decisions about your course load, take your responsibilities into consideration. Things like part-time jobs and family responsibilities may affect how many courses you can handle.

So... Set your goals accordingly.

Thank you for watching. Please move on to module number 3.