

Student Success at Dawson College

Academic success and you

Being a successful student means passing your courses and staying in your program of study until you have graduated.

But it means more than getting good grades and a diploma. It means taking responsibility for your own learning, developing your personal skills, pursuing new challenges, and working to improve areas where you are not as strong.

Your time at Dawson will last only a few short years. Each program at Dawson is designed to provide you with tools to develop the skills, knowledge and attitudes that you will need for the rest of your life, in your studies, in your work, and as a citizen.

Dawson is committed to delivering high-quality programs and services so that you can take away the best all-around benefit from your education.

We work continuously to improve programs and we consult universities and employers to make sure that what you are learning is up-to-date and meets their expectations.

To create a stimulating learning environment that will keep you interested, we help your teachers develop their skills to their highest potential. We help them to explore and implement pedagogies that will engage you and enrich your learning experience.

While your studies will occupy most of your time at Dawson, we know that you are also interested in extra-curricular activities like sports and recreation, clubs and student government. You are encouraged to participate in these activities and apply everything you have learned to all your different interests.

The Graduate Profile

The Graduate Profile outlines the skills, knowledge and attitudes that we will help you to develop during your time at Dawson College.

Below are the building blocks that will support your future development and success in every aspect of your life.

Learning to learn

Acquiring the skills and knowledge you need to take charge of your own learning.

Mastery of program competencies

Demonstrating the skills, knowledge and attitudes expressed in the competencies of your program.

Communication

Using effective knowledge and skills in reading, writing, speaking, listening, presentation of self and delivery of information, in English and French.

Critical thinking, problem-solving skills and creativity

Being able to collect, organize and evaluate information from a variety of sources and analyze and synthesize relevant information to draw informed conclusions and make decisions.

Developing and implementing strategies to answer open-ended questions or achieve desired outcomes.

Demonstrating creative thinking by applying knowledge and skills to new settings and problems or producing works in original ways.

Teamwork and leadership skills

Knowing how to work with others in setting goals and priorities, and implementing the means to achieve them.

Learning to manage interpersonal relationships, resolve conflicts and assume responsibility for your own actions.

Quantitative literacy

Working with, understanding and presenting numerical data, and being able to reason and solve quantitative problems arising from a variety of everyday situations.

Health and well-being

Understanding lifestyle choices that will contribute to sustained health and well-being.

Ethical understanding and behaviour

Practising academic integrity and demonstrating ethical behaviour appropriate to citizenship in a democratic society.

Social responsibility and community engagement

Developing an informed concern for the larger good, appreciating social and cultural diversity, respecting the values of others, and acting responsibly towards the environment.

Making a difference in the quality of life of your community through both political and non-political processes.

Resources to help you

Academic advisors can guide you at every stage of your studies at Dawson. They can help you choose your educational path and provide you with information on a variety of related subjects: program transfers, college policies and procedures, graduation requirements, university applications and a lot more.

dawsoncollege.qc.ca/academic-advising

Student Services offers a broad range of services designed to ease your transition to College; assist you if you encounter academic, personal, and financial difficulties; and enrich your experience at the College through a variety of extra-curricular activities.

For more information about the services available to students, see the following:

The **First-Year Students' Office** provides an information and service hub for new students regarding their orientation and registration, the services available to support them in their studies, and the opportunities for engagement in the College community.

dawsoncollege.qc.ca/new-students

The **Academic Skills Centre** offers assistance in many areas, whether students are looking for help with essay-writing or study skills, seeking a peer tutor for help with a difficult course, working to improve their fluency in English, or preparing for the English Exit Examination.

dawsoncollege.qc.ca/academic-skills-centre

The **Library** provides a welcoming and comfortable place to do research and coursework, to study and meet classmates. In addition to its print and digital collections, the Library provides individual and group study space and access to facilities such as computers, printers and DVD/VHS viewing terminals.

<https://library.dawsoncollege.qc.ca>

Counselling and Career Development is a confidential service that can help students with career and educational planning, adjusting to college life, managing stress, resolving personal problems or dealing with other challenges in their life.

dawsoncollege.qc.ca/counselling

The **AccessAbility Centre** addresses the needs of students with documented disabilities including learning difficulties, sensory and motor impairments, chronic medical conditions, and mental health issues.

dawsoncollege.qc.ca/student-accessibility

The **Mentor Program** matches first-year students with an experienced employee of the College. Through regular or occasional meetings, students can ask questions, express concerns, and receive guidance as they transition to college life.

dawsoncollege.qc.ca/counselling/mentor-program

The **First Peoples' Centre** provides comprehensive services, including academic, para-academic and cultural support, for Indigenous (First Nations, Metis, and Inuit) students. The Centre offers a peaceful, culturally sensitive environment where students can learn, study, socialize, and find community.

dawsoncollege.qc.ca/first-peoples-initiative/first-peoples-centre

The **Awards and Scholarships Office** administers the Dean's Honours List as well as entrance, in-course and graduation awards in a variety of disciplines.

dawsoncollege.qc.ca/awards-scholarships

The **Financial Aid Office** provides financial assistance services to full-time students in need, including Quebec loan and bursaries application assistance, book loans, emergency loans, budgeting tips, a food bank, and snack centre.

dawsoncollege.qc.ca/financial-aid

The **Ombudsperson** helps ensure that students receive fair and equitable treatment within the College system and is empowered to investigate complaints as well as facilitate or negotiate solutions.

dawsoncollege.qc.ca/ombudsperson

Health Services provide confidential and free health services to current students. These services include appointments with a general practitioner or gynecologist, counselling on lifestyle habits (nutrition, physical activity, smoking cessation, stress management) and on contraception, and testing for pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections.

dawsoncollege.qc.ca/health-services

The **Student Employment Office** offers students assistance with résumé building, interview techniques and search tools for finding jobs. In addition to providing a student job bank, the Office conducts workshops on current employment strategies and organizes job fairs to help students with part-time summer work and full time employment in their technical fields

dawsoncollege.qc.ca/student-employment/

Campus Life and Leadership provides programs to improve the quality of campus life through activities that offer educational, social, recreational, and leadership opportunities.

dawsoncollege.qc.ca/campus-life-leadership

Athletics and Campus Recreation provide programs to students wishing to pursue their sport of choice or to simply maintain a healthy lifestyle while studying at the College. Students can choose from among 16 intercollegiate sports and a comprehensive offering of Campus Recreation activities.

dawsoncollege.qc.ca/athletics

More information about initiatives to support student success at Dawson

Dawson's plan for student success is part of the College's Strategic Plan 2016-2021 and comprises four strategic priorities:

- Foster intentional and coordinated approaches to developing the Graduate Profile outcomes.
- Support new students in their transition to Dawson.
- Provide coordinated and accessible services to students.
- Ensure that programs and educational offerings are relevant to the needs of society.

To learn more about these directions and how they can help enrich your experience at Dawson, please consult the full text of the plan available on the website:

dawsoncollege.qc.ca/strategic-plan

If you have any questions about student success, or the support services available to you, please contact the Office of the Academic Dean or the Director of Student Services.

dawsoncollege.qc.ca/new-students

Dawson College

3040 Sherbrooke St. West
Montreal, Quebec H3Z 1A4

T 514 931 8731
dawsoncollege.qc.ca

D I S C O V E R