

## Section 2

### Explanation of Academic factors - Required to answer.

1. Specify any personal or academic factors you faced when last enrolled which might have contributed to your academic performance and/or your decision to take time away from your studies. Provide a timeline for these events.

Explain how these factors had a direct impact on your academic performance. Be as specific as possible. For example, provide any evidence that you were doing well a course(s) until the circumstances occurred. If you performed well in other courses but not in a specific course, be very clear about what factors influenced your performance in that specific course and why other courses were not affected.

After being readmitted to the University in Fall 2022, I resumed my path of pursuing a software engineering major in the faculty of arts, without taking the necessary steps to address the factors behind my academic struggles. I once again displayed poor performances in software-engineering-oriented courses, receiving a C+ in COMP 202 and later going on to receive similarly poor results the following academic year. Throughout this period, my academic advisor informed me that a move into an economics major with a minor in computer science would likely be an extremely suitable fit, as I had demonstrated a much stronger aptitude and ability in economics-related courses. I had received a B- in both ECON 208 and 209 and an A- in ECON 219, only struggling to achieve similar results in ECON 313 and 314 due to a significantly heavier software/mathematics course load. Additionally, it would allow me to take only one remaining computer-oriented course to complete the requirements for the minor. Upon reflection, I did not possess the academic background, having studied commerce throughout CEGEP, nor had I developed the proper study habits to succeed in my courses. While I struggled throughout these courses, my pride got in the way and I attempted to prove to myself that I could advance in this major, against the advice of my academic advisor, for which I am deeply regretful and now understand the academic consequences of.

2. Explain the actions you took to address any personal or academic issues you encountered.
  - a) Did you speak to a course instructor(s), a teaching assistant, or an adviser for advice about your situation?
  - b) Did you seek extensions to complete course work, consider deferring a final exam or withdrawing from a course after the deadline?

Provide details about any resources you used to assist you in resolving an issue. If you did not seek assistance and/or cannot provide supporting documentation, explain your reasons. Did you take time off to work or explore other opportunities?

Over the past year, I elected to not reapply to the University as I had initially intended and instead took time to understand and address the root causes behind my poor academic performance. Over the period of Fall 2024, I consistently met with my academic advisor Ms. Joelle Neish to develop and implement a plan with actionable steps to take moving forward. While I had initially planned to gain work experience by doing internships at Kruger, Inc., she advised that I should additionally enroll as an independent student at Concordia University, to continue developing and hone my academic study methods in hopes of returning to McGill. My first semester was extremely challenging as I found immense difficulty navigating a work schedule and studies for my classes at the time (ECON 201 and ECON 203). While I thought this new academic opportunity would be change enough to begin succeeding, I was largely stuck in the poor study habits I had built and remained generally arrogant towards my academic abilities, lacking the maturity and clarity that I now feel I have gained. In Winter 2025 however, after being graciously offered a contract extension at Kruger, Inc., I recognized an immense need for change in my professional, academic, and personal pursuits if I wanted to reach my goals, and truly implemented new habits to improve myself. I actively attended as many office hours as my schedule would allow and made efforts to participate in any class forums or discussions that were available. This, coupled with the professional advice I received from my coworkers and bosses while at Kruger, Inc., allowed me to see dramatic growth both academically and professionally, yielding grades of A and A- in Concordia's ECON 318 and 331 respectively, and an additional contract extension for the upcoming Summer 2025 term at Kruger, Inc.