The Ultimate MGCI TOPS Course Selection Guide

Created by the TOPS Class of 2023 to help you suffer less

All of the reviews are anonymous, by design

Read Me First:

- **Please don't share this guide outside of current and former TOPS students. This includes your parents. Please please please no parents. Of course, no teachers either.**
- Every grade has a compulsory section for things you must take, and an electives section for courses where you'll have to choose (e.g. between the arts for grade 9). Then, for your remaining electives, scroll down to Actual Electives
- Ratings out of 10 are provided in 2 different formats:
    - x x x = x/10 - Teacher, course enjoyment, mark easiness = overall
    - x/10 - Overall rating only
- Each entry has both the course code and teacher attached, and sometimes we have two entries for the same course but with different teachers. Teachers are different and you can expect vastly different experiences from them, which is why we did this. Unfortunately, you can't choose a teacher during course selection but you can beg guidance to switch to another class in September/February. If you get the course you wanted but with a teacher we don't know about, then good luck (try and find someone who has taken that course with your teacher).
- We obviously don't have every course and every teacher listed here. If you're interested in a course/teacher we don't list, go for it! This guide isn't meant to shoehorn you into the "popular" or "easy" courses: it just provides a (mostly, we tried) objective review of all the classes we've taken so you know what to expect.
- **For Prospective Waterloo Students only:**
    - Take ICS4U1 in grade 11. Especially if you get Mr. Anthony's class or if you can transfer into it.
- **For Prospective US Uni Students only:** You should be taking the *most rigorous* course load possible. This means
    - 8 courses every year, no spares.
    - All your grade 11/12 courses should be Mixed or University level.
    - Max out math (take linear algebra AND data management). Don't take mainstream calculus even though you technically can. Universities will see you with calculus while everyone else has linear algebra and go 🤑.
    - Take at least 2 sciences in grade 12. If you're taking physics, take AP Physics C. Contrary to popular belief, you don't need all 3 sciences.
    - Take 4 years of French, if possible, and a humanities/history course in grade 10 or 11 if you are interested and the course exists on myBlueprint.
    - This all will mean you don't have much wiggle room for electives, which is why you should at least roughly plan out all 4 years of your course selection as early as possible (now)
    - Make sure you put in effort in your classes and build good relationships with as many teachers as you can in grade 10, 11, and 12. You'll need teachers to write reference letters for you, but also don't be a suck-up for the letter (they can tell). You have to be genuine.
- **To grade 10s and 11s:** Feel free to contribute to this document and add in your own experiences, for the future years. To get a link to the doc, consult someone in the class of '23 (or many people, until you find someone who has this link). Things will change and this guide will probably be outdated in 1-2 years (just look at the plethora of teachers we marked as "don't teach this (or at all) anymore lol")

Bonus: Timetable Templates

This section contains some templates for use for certain target people. If you fit into one of these categories, feel free to basically copy these templates for your own use because if you do too many electives then you screw yourself over.

CS kid wanting to apply to American Unis

Required:

- 4 years of English (4 courses total)
- 4 years of science (7 courses total, you don't need 3 sciences in grade 12)
- 4 years of math (6 courses total, you should max out all the maths)
- 4 years French (4 courses total)
- Other required stuff: Gym, Arts, Geography, History, Civics/Careers
- 2 years Computer Science (2 courses total)
- 4 electives (can be free electives/3rd grade 12 science/anything else)

Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Grade 9 English	Grade 10 English	Grade 11 English	Grade 12 English
Grade 9 Science	Grade 10 Science	Grade 11 Chemistry	Grade 12 Chemistry
Grade 9 Math	Grade 10 Math	Grade 11 Physics	Grade 12 Physics
Grade 9 French	Grade 11 Math	Grade 11 Biology	Linear Algebra
Grade 9 Gym	Grade 10 French	AP Calculus AB or BC	Data Management
Grade 9 Arts	Grade 11 CS	Grade 11 French	Grade 12 French
Grade 9 Geography	Grade 10 History	Grade 12 CS	Elective
Grade 10 Civics/Careers	Elective	Elective	Elective

CS kid who enjoys French

Follow the template above, but data management can be optionally replaced with an elective

CS kid who doesn't enjoy French

Follow the template above, but data management and grades 10, 11, 12 French can be replaced with an elective

Grade 9

Compulsory

ENG1DP - Lajeunesse

9 8 5 = 7/10

Ms. Lajeunesse makes you work for your mark. That's it. Work hard, revise hard, and you should be able to get at least 90% without much trouble. This course is perhaps a bit harder than the grade 11 version, also taught by Ms. Lajeuenesse, as most people need some time to adjust to high school English. Typically marks are worst in the first unit, and then they get better towards the end. She is also a firm believer in mental health (yas queen!!) and runs the Stratford trip. Did I also mention she has a bunch of cushions and a massive library in her room?

SNC1DP - Oliver

9/10

Ms. Oliver is a really great teacher, with great marks, and she's legitimately a speed demon. More often than not, you can write a test one day, and get it back the next day. Unfortunately, there aren't that many labs (labs are mostly in grades 11 and 12) and some of the course content is boring. I don't know if they're still doing grade 10 biology in grade 9 anymore, but that is one special thing about the course. The summative, a science fair project, is somewhat interesting but you'll have to put in a good amount of work to get full marks.

FSF1D1 - Webb

6/10

I learned almost nothing in this class and got a mid mark so whatever. He did teach us a few banger French songs though.

MPM1DP - ???

The class of '23 had Mr. McMaster, who no longer teaches, so we can't comment on this course.

PPL1OM - Hillman

10 10 10 = 10/10

Mr. Hillman is such a G. Participate, put in effort (or pretend to), and you'll get a good mark. He's also really cool outside of class and is one of my favorite teachers. Like gym teachers should be, you're not marked on how good you are, but rather how much effort and/or improvement you show. Expect 95+%.

PPL1OF - Manjra

9/10

Marks were relatively chill (97 or 98 class average), and the class focuses on individual improvement (most of the class did not have great "physical capability"). This class is reportedly more chill than even middle school gym, and we all know how chill middle school gym is.

CGC1DP - Roberge

9/10

Ms. Roberge was a pretty good teacher, very nice and very nice marks. Don't remember much else but there were basically no complaints here and she taught quite a fair bit.

Note: TOPS Geography doesn't exist anymore, but this review is still relevant for Ms. Roberge's class.

CIVCAR (Civics + Careers) - ???

The class of '23 had teachers who no longer teach this course, so we can't comment on this course. In general, they're probably both free marks, with careers being extremely useless and civics being slightly useful.

Electives

ADA1O1 - ???

The class of '23 had Ms. Wilkins, who no longer teaches, so we can't comment on this course.

AVI1O1 - Jeffrey

10 10 10 = 10/10

Mr. Jeffrey is very nice and advocates for drawing whatever feels right/gets you to relax. He's very chill and will help you when needed. Your marks will be very good as long as he can see that you've put effort in and you have very basic art skills (as all open-level art classes should). The course is a lot of fun and you'll actually learn stuff, regardless of your current skill level. The units are perspective, sculpture, portraiture, graffiti, and summative (whatever you want). Best course I took in ninth grade, and definitely the best out of the arts.

AMI1O1 - ???

The class of '23 had Mr. Rakonjac, who no longer teaches, so we can't comment on this course.

Grade 10

Compulsory

ENG2DP - Patterson

Mr. Patterson teaches this class now and we didn't have him so we can't comment on this course.

SNC2DP - Bhandarkar

The class of '23 had Mr. van Bemmel, who no longer teaches, so we can't comment on this course.

MPM2DP - Elamad

?/10

From the class of '24: Ms. Elamad's courses are very challenging (including her grade 9 course). Her tests are around the same length as Ms. Chan's exams. I recommend going to the washroom before her tests. Do as much practice as possible so that you can improve your efficiency and finish the tests in time.

MCR3UP - Chan

10 9 6 = 8/10

The content was fairly straightforward, the only thing that may have been iffy was somewhat of an intro to proofs, but do the practice and ask for help if you need to. You'll also be doing part of Grade 12 advanced functions in this class, in preparation for calculus next year. Ms. Chan's a fantastic destresser, and part of this class was 15-minute fun dance breaks (to be continued in her other classes).

CHC2DP - Smit

9/10

She also teaches Grade 12 World history (which doesn't run in the school often). The course was a bit slow and not super organized. However, she cared about what she taught and her students. She's pretty lenient with lateness and very

approachable. Lots of work periods. MAKE SURE YOU CITE IN MLA FORMAT WITH IN-TEXT CITATIONS because she will take off a lot of marks if you don't.

ICS3UP - Koutroubis

7/10

This class brings out the most mundane of CS: flowcharts and simple code. If you don't like flowcharts (who does), it's going to be painful. If you show off and write complex/advanced code she'll take off marks (basically the complete opposite of Mr. Anthony). She's pretty chill though.

Electives

None

Grade 11

Compulsory

ENG3UP - Lajeunesse

9 9 7 = 8/10

Ms. Lajeunesse makes you work for your mark. That's it. Work hard, revise hard, and you should be able to get above 92% without much trouble. There are a few free mark assignments littered throughout the semester - notably, the roundtable discussions are almost always 100%. She marks hard for the first unit, and you might suffer there, but things get better the further along you go. She is also a firm believer in mental health (yas queen!!) and runs the Stratford trip. Did I also mention she has a bunch of cushions in her room? Honestly the only gripe I have about her class is the first unit marks but everything else is amazing. Even though I'm not naturally gifted in English this was one of the courses I looked forward to most because of how little stress it gave me.

SCH3UP - Woods

10 10 10 = 10/10

Nobody hates Ms. Woods - it's literally a crime to do so. Great teacher, great course, great marks. Tests are out of >60 marks so even if you make a few mistakes it's not a big deal. Labs are fun, lessons are very well structured and very well explained. I don't know anyone who did poorly in this class, or disliked it either. Course median was 94%, there's not much else I can say about this apart from reiterating how amazing and nice Ms. Woods is. She's also super organized and can find just about anything you ask for almost immediately.

SPH3UP - Maharaj

10 9 6.5 = 8.5/10 (Bump up ratings to 10 10 9.5 = 10/10 if you're a CS/Engineering/Science kid)

Ms. Maharaj is a great teacher, her notes are great too, her lessons are great too. The only issue is that the questions you'll do in class/on tests may sometimes be a bit challenging, so **make sure you study** because the change in pace from grade 10 to 11 is drastic. Lab reports can be a bit tedious, and expect to lose a few marks on the first few - but after the 2nd or 3rd report, you'll have figured it out. Her tests can get slightly long at times, having to run up to 5 minutes overtime once or twice. The summative is really fun. The biggest downside of this course are the marks because physics isn't for everyone, but out of ppl with a decently strong math background the median was around 95%, and marks tend to be higher in second semester. She lets you drop a mark at the end of the course, and the exam is supposed to curve marks up significantly.

SBI3UP - Hermanovsky

10 9 5 = 8/10 (Bump up ratings to 10 10 9 = 10/10 if you're a med kid)

Ms. Hermanovsky's class is, let's say, controversial. You either love it or you hate it. The first two units will hurt. Lab reports will hurt. It is nearly impossible to get perfect on a lab report, and she once emailed saying 90% was a good mark. Spelling errors or other small errors are 3% off so make sure you proofread well. First two tests, you'll have to memorize something like 300 terms and 300 slides (though it's not terribly hard to argue for some marks back). Have fun. Oh, also for lifelong learner, DO NOT sign up as one of the first 4 people. You should let some people present first so you can catch onto their mistakes and not make them yourself. The course gets much better after the first two units though, and most people end up with above 90%. There are also many opportunities to participate (through trivia (free money/chocolate if you try hard enough), teaching lessons (a fantastic idea for actually fully understanding certain topics), etc.) It's clear how passionate she is about her subject, and she tries her best to make it fun (vo2 max challenge, jokes about aging backwards, and randomly googling things during class). Barring having to memorize the content, her lessons themselves are quite enjoyable, and she teaches you some important skills (like strategies for understanding scientific papers). Outside of her course, Ms. Hermanovsky's super cool, and (reportedly) writes pretty good reference letters. Oh, and ask her about the Jonathan dropping bio story. Expect a mark of 90+%, if you put in a good amount of effort or are just naturally talented at bio. Class median was 92%, and marks tend to be higher in second semester.

Electives

MHF4U0 - Gani

Take this OR MHF4UP, but not both

10 8 10 = 9/10

Mr. Gani's class is the best of both worlds - if you already know calculus, you can (quietly) work on other work and he won't care. If you want to learn, you can follow along with his lessons, which are relatively well-structured and he goes at a slow enough pace so that you'll be able to follow along (may be a bit boring for the advanced kids though). His tests are decently written, and not terribly difficult - if you do the practice questions, you'll be well prepared. There's also the AP Calculus boost - if you write AP Calculus BC and score a 5, your mark gets boosted 10%, to a maximum of 95%. Mr. Gani is super nice and honestly, no complaints. Most people get 95-100%, thanks to the mark boost, and also because his pacing is just good enough that it's not too difficult to follow along for most people.

MHF4UP - Chan

Take this OR MHF4U0, but not both

7.5/10

She teaches at the pace of the students, lots of discussion and questions in class, notes were pretty clear, tests were hard, and she was less generous with marks than Mr. Gani. She always has multiple ways of explaining how to do things, so hopefully at least of them make sense to you. Oh, she also teaches Mahjong (to be continued in data). Marks were lower in this class compared to Mr. Gani's class.

Grade 12

Compulsory

ENG4UP - Brennan - Semester 1

10 10 8 = 9/10

Although marks might dip a bit compared to Ms. Lajeunesse's Grade 11 English (and stress you out), the classroom has quite a unique vibe (taylor swift songs playing at the start of class). Like the other English courses, the starting marks are atrocious but as the semester goes on, more free marks are given out (discussions were all 100s…) and if you genuinely try, you should be fine. WAY fewer work periods compared to Grade 11 - expect each and every English class to be jam-packed (with 80% literary analysis, small group discussions, and descriptive writing) until the bell. She also takes the time to go through your assignments

and give honest feedback, which can help if you're using them for uni apps. She also is quite chill when it comes to deadlines if you talk to her, and is always open to editing uni apps, even if you aren't in her class (and her feedback is really good). She's also one of those teachers who genuinely cares about you as a human being and would be delighted if you email her your personal projects, such as creative writing you do on the side. She has great taste in literature—the passages she reads out during book talks are so good and make me want to copy them down and stare at them because the words are so beautiful. Ms. Brennan's so wholesome that many of her students have wanted her to adopt them, as a joke.

ENG4UP - Brennan - Semester 2

1 1 4 = 2/10

Ms. Brennan makes me FEAR FOR MY LIFE. Every day I walk into English, I wonder if I'm going to die that day. Her class is super fast-paced even though somehow, nothing productive happens every class, quickwrites and independent reading got nuked, she roasts people all the time (and quite harshly too), and so then some people just do not speak in fear of getting demolished by her. She also does "seminars" which are discussions with the whole class of 30 people, and because there are so many people, you fall into one of two categories: either you start talking so quickly after someone finishes that you end up talking multiple times, or you never find an opportunity to jump in and stay quiet the whole time. She does not hesitate to make it known that her opinions are correct and yours are wrong, and she will not hesitate to destroy you in front of the whole class, for saying anything she doesn't like, like "I'm tired" or "I recommend reading 1984" or "I hate poetry." Her class is supposed to be a safe space but I felt safer in even Ms. Elamad's class because at least Ms. Elamad wasn't a menace. Her feedback is also questionable, giving you bad marks with barely any feedback for improvement and since semester 2 is not uni app season, there's no helping you with uni essays in class. Expect marks to be quite a bit lower than in Ms. Lajeunesse's class; even the people who consistently got 100% in grade 11 English can't get perfect here. She has terrible taste in literature—the passages she forces us to read are mid and either too long or too annoying to read.

Electives

SCH4UP - Lau

Only 2 of the three sciences is compulsory, but you may take all 3.

10 8 6 = 7.5/10

Ms. Lau is really chill and so are her classes. She does class games about once a week, and is always available at lunch for help and clarifications for labs/notes/questions. She also has full recordings of every lesson, which is great if you miss a day. Her labs are mostly easy marks, as long as you don't do anything dumb like forget units. Her tests are also relatively easy, but her marking scheme is not. Unlike Ms. Woods, who typically has around 70 marks per test, Ms. Lau only has around 30, meaning that one mark = 3% gone. She also teaches a bit fast sometimes, so you will need to self-study quite a bit. (God bless LibreTexts.) Make sure to study during the unit instead of the night before the test because there will always be a long queue at lunch the day of and day before the test. The labs in this class are actually a godsend in that they make you understand and remember the content better than the lessons. Make sure to do all (or as many as you can) of the practice questions (but many of the answers in the answer key are wrong). Marks end up being generally decent though in the end (easy summative + exam), and she's a really wholesome teacher (boba + kpop <3) which makes up for it.

SCH4UP - Woods

Only 2 of the three sciences is compulsory, but you may take all 3.

Ms. Woods's class is in second semester, so we can't write anything yet.

SPH4U0 - Maharaj

Only 2 of the three sciences are compulsory, but you may take all 3.

You may only take one of the two physics courses.

Ms. Maharaj's class is in second semester, so we can't write anything yet.

SPH4UP - Patrascu

Only 2 of the three sciences are compulsory, but you may take all 3.

You may only take one of the two physics courses.

9/10

"It's a joke if you already did grade 11 physics with Ms. Maharaj" because she basically just re-teaches the grade 11 content and you get super free marks. She gives bonus marks on tests and it's ridiculously easy to get good marks here. She's also a pretty good teacher, and the class average was 98+%. Her class is similar in style to Mr. Gani.

SBI4UP - Oliver

Only 2 of the three sciences are compulsory, but you may take all 3.

Ms. Oliver's class is in second semester, so we can't write anything yet.

MDM4UP - Chan

Only 1 of the two maths is compulsory, but you may take both.

10 6 6.5 = 7.5/10 Would recommend

Ms. Chan is a good teacher, her lessons are well-structured, and she gives opportunities for near-free marks throughout the semester, especially towards the end. However, be wary of her marking scheme - it is absolutely brutal. Tests are out of 20-30 marks, and there are hundreds of way to lose a mark in the first 1-2 units. Be prepared to get a lot of mid-80s to low-90s marks towards the start of the semester, and only starting in the third unit will marks start to make more sense (and it's here that free mark assignments start getting handed out like candy). Math contests will help on some units (counting & probability), but even still, marks are a struggle if you tanked the first 2 units. Just make sure you don't make too many mistakes. The summative project is also spread out over the semester, so you'll need to plan it accordingly. This is not something you can procrastinate, but pace yourself well and you can set yourself up for a fantastic (almost) self-guided research/study project. She does some fun activities sometimes like dance breaks and Mahjong, and she provides good notes. Overall, quite stressful at the start, and gets better over time. She lets you drop one mark at the end of the semester. If she ever raises her voice, be quiet immediately. Don't make her raise her voice.

MCV4UP - Elamad

Only 1 of the two maths is compulsory, but you may take both.

6 5.5 2 = 4.5/10

It is truly a shame that this course is required for admittance to any engineering or computer science program. On transcripts, this course, Linear Algebra, is coded the same as calculus, so realistically you're competing against people doing derivatives for university admissions. Ms. Elamad's tests are way too long and hard ("75 minute test" = 2 hours), nobody can finish on time, she has no mercy (1 tiny calculation mistake = as low as 4/8 marks), and she takes a whole semester to return some work. Her course marks are completely abysmal, with a low-90s average (remember, you need 97% ish for Waterloo!!) and they only get worse the further you progress in the course. However, marks went up at the end of the course thanks to a mark drop. The marks in this class have overly stressed out everyone except for a handful of people, especially when she takes off really nitpicky marks and refuses to negotiate, or if you mess up one thing and get 1/9 marks. This, in combination with her asinine test length,

means that you should expect to have to sacrifice many hours of very focused studying during test weeks yet very few marks, and a drop of 1-5% compared to TOPS Calculus from last year. Also be prepared to sacrifice many lunches to writing linear algebra tests, so good luck if you're running clubs. Marks are a bit of a sore issue, and stressing about having <98% in MCV4U for university applications is a real concern (that over ⅓ of our class raised!) but at least she does mark drop at the end of the course. Also, don't try to go to the washroom during one of her ~~90~~ 120 minute tests. Yes, that's right, ~~90~~ 120 minutes. You'll have to go to school at 8:45 for period 1 tests, and write into lunch for period 2. I would recommend sitting near the window so you can look out and imagine yourself jumping out because you will want to kill yourself sometimes. The first unit (induction) is novel to many people (i.e. challenging), unit 2 (binomial/multinomial) is relatively easy, unit 3 (complex numbers) is not that hard but she is really picky about marks (multiple people got <70% on some items) and she got mad at people for using their calculators to find sin(75), unit 4 (matrices) will make you want to commit murder, and unit 5 (vectors) is a bloodbath, **especially** the unit 2 vectors test. At least she didn't have enough time to teach linear transformations, which would have probably broken people and left them in tears. Her class was very predictable though, and while it was stressful, at least every day I walked into the class I knew that I could expect the same thing as usual. What I will say is that Ms. Elamad is not a malicious person, but her course is certainly malicious for anyone applying to Waterloo. Once you get accepted though, you'll be thankful for having taken this class because then you'll find first year linear algebra relatively easier!

Tips:

- Get a good calculator (CASIO 991 ES Plus) and learn how to use it effectively
- Try and get into semester 2 if possible because marks don't matter after midterms, and your mark will probably drop after midterms

Actual Electives

Grade 9

You shouldn't have any actual electives in grade 9, but if you do, there are no good grade 9/10 electives lol.

Grade 10

There are no useful grade 10 electives except French, if you enjoy it or plan on applying to international universities. If you're not taking French, take two grade 11 electives. If you are taking French, take one grade 11 elective.

Grade 11

Take any grade 11 electives you're interested in, but if you have extra slots to fill, **fill them with grade 12 electives and not grade 11 electives.** Most students take ICS4U1 and then a business course or computer engineering. A humanities elective (law, history, philosophy) is also a good idea, but make sure you do the grade 12 version. Tip: even if you don't have the prerequisite, if you talk to the teacher whose course you want to take, they'll most often let you take it.

Grade 12

Make sure your electives line up with your university top 6 requirements. Balance your course load with easy electives, enjoyable/fun electives, and electives that genuinely interest you so you don't die during uni app season. You can also choose to take 6, 7, or 8 courses, and what you do is up to you. If you want to apply to the states, you should take 8 courses (7 is maybe acceptable). Otherwise, 6 or 7 is fine, and that gives you spares (= less stress!). If you're genuinely interested in learning something but don't want to be marked on it and if the subject happens to be in your spare, you can try and ask the teacher if you can audit the course, but this has only successfully been done once or twice.

Electives to take in Grade 9

None

Electives to take in Grade 10

FSF2D1 - MacKillop

The class of '23 did not have Mr. MacKillop, so we can't comment on this course.

Electives to take in Grade 10 OR 11

TEJ3M1 - Larter

9 8 10 = 9/10 Would strongly recommend

Free marks - the course median for people who do all the assignments is 100%. The assignments are relatively easy, he allows redos if you get less than 100%, and if you pace yourself well, over 50% of class time will be free time for you to work on other things. The assignments here are easy to just brute force your way through, and you could probably honestly do all of them during 1-2 weeks when you have time. Expect 100% if you don't grief yourself. Also a bonus if you enjoy playing with hardware and Windows because then the class will be quite interesting, though the assignments are very hand-holdy, so you probably won't retain too much information, but it does teach you some basic technical support skills.

HSP3U1 - Tharshan

6/10

She's an ok teacher, her assignments are really, easy, her summative is similar to Ms. Chan's where you have to do surveys and plan things out, as a teacher she's quite passionate but she has favorites (the cool popular guys in the back). You can't sleep in her class because she'll call you out. She reportedly reuses tests, so you can ask previous students for their tests, and marks & courseload are not great for an elective (memorization based, 95%ish).

BAT3M1 - Matevski

9/10

He's very chill so long as you finish your work on time, don't ask for too many extensions, and participate in class without speaking too much while he's teaching. Free marks because the assignments are all cross-referenceable except for a single careers slideshow.

Electives to take in Grade 11

FSF3U1 - Warden

*/10

There were some extenuating circumstances in our year that affected our ability to rate him as he is now, therefore, no rating will be assigned for Mr. Warden, other than "he's alright." (He's also retiring soon.)

Electives to take in Grade 11 OR 12

BAT4M1 - Alika

7 5 7.5 = 6.5/10

The lessons were decent if you listened, but most people didn't and wanted to sleep or do other work instead. Mr. Alika's pretty nice and gives extensions if needed, but he's very strict on what's right or wrong (even if his textbook contradicts current knowledge, he expects the textbook answer even if it's technically wrong) so sometimes the marks are a bit picky for an elective. He also isn't great at answering questions. He also seems pretty passionate about accounting and financial securities (which he integrates into this course) and goes on rants sometimes for a laugh or two. Be prepared to work on many small assignments which may or may not take up some time and be prepared to write lengthy paragraphs.

BBB4M1 - Ciocoiu

10 9 10 = 10/10

Mr. C teaches content and then it's a "work period." Fairly straightforward to get a 100 (nice high marks), and he does Kahoots for prizes sometimes. One test throughout the entire course (that you can redo if you got 0.5 marks off) and no exam. No-brainer chill elective. He's also very chill. Pretty similar to BOH4M1.

BOH4M1 - Ciocoiu

10 9 10 = 10/10

This is a free 100 course and Mr. C is very chill, but the class is not very interesting because it's a lot of just common sense. Basically a free period, and nobody shows up to class anyways because it's free marks. Pretty similar to BBB4M1.

ICS4U1 - Anthony

10 10 10 = 10/10

One of the easiest and most relaxing courses I've ever taken. Will be an absolute breeze if you already know CS. Free 100%, and you typically have over 50% of class time to work on other things. If you don't know CS, you're in luck, because with a bit of hard work, most people with no CS background get 99%. Assignments have a lot of freedom so you can create whatever you want (kinda a dream for ppl who like CS or people who like creating artsy things) because he appreciates it when you go over the top. Mr. Anthony is also super nice and chill (though a savage at times, in a good way), and he also writes good reference letters. Would recommend for all TOPS students, not just CS students, because it's a high 4U mark for Ontario universities.

ICS4U1 - Go

9 8 5 = 7/10

Similar to Mr. Anthony's ICS4U1 class. Classes are mostly work periods, few lessons, etc. The back half of the course (Java GUI) really speeds up and you aren't really taught how to do anything so you have to work everything out by yourself for the summative. Make sure you start the summative EARLY. Please don't start it 3 days before like I did. Ms. Go is approachable and pretty nice, she doesn't really care if you are goofing off in class. She says "are you working hard or hardly working" a lot. The more questions you ask her, the nicer she'll be (goes for most teachers). Tips for assignments: make sure your slides are colourful and contain a lot of images (because she'll take off marks if otherwise), she really cares about comments and user-friendliness. Make sure your console AND code are formatted well: she takes off significant marks for formatting. Marks in this class are a few percentage points lower than in Mr. Anthony's class, and it's incredibly hard to get 99 or 100.

IDC4U1 - Alika

7 6 7.5 7/10

Compared to BAT4M1, assignments are more open ended, which means you get a bit more freedom to work with, but also means it may be harder to come up with answers and he gets to take marks off arbitarily. If you're actually interested in the content, the course only gives a very basic understanding. It has some breadth in the sense that it has content about investments that arent just the hyped stocks and crypto garbage. Like the other business courses, it's basically free time to work on whatever, and expect a mid 90s mark.

HZT4U1 - Pearce

9/10

Although considered by some to be "a free mark", Mr. Pearce's philosophy class encourages you to think deeply and class discussions are very fun (similar to Ms. Brennan's class's vibes), where you can babble about your hot takes and hear his insightful crtiques. That's not to say that you won't get a high mark (at least, you should be getting >96 if you put in some effort), but you'll also learn about philosophical, ethical, and political concepts along the way. Mr. Pearce is a very chill teacher (a "10/10

very cool dude"), and also talks about his interesting life like going to university in Mexico and doing human works in a Colombian conflict zone. He writes good reference letters.

TEJ4M1 - Larter

9 6 9 = 8/10

Free marks - the course median for people who do all the assignments is 100%. The assignments are relatively easy, he allows redos if you get less than 100%, and if you pace yourself well, over 50% of class time will be free time for you to work on other things. The assignments here are more annoying than the ones for grade 11 computer engineering, but still easy enough. As long as you trudge through the boring ones, there are a few assignments that are more fun. Expect 100% if you don't grief yourself.

TER4M1 - Anthony

10 8 10 = 9/10

The course material is very easy to learn and it's easy to get high marks without ever touching a breadboard, Arduino, or the grade 11 robotics course before. The assignments have a high degree of freedom, and it's a lot easier to get 100 doing some things than others, e.g. on the Arduino game assignment, making a simple platformer on an LCD is a lot easier than something physical. Expect to do a lot of debugging, since this is a relatively new course so half the components don't work and are not very well organized. Once again, since this is a relatively new course, expect changes in the future.

PSK4U1 - Hillman

10 8.5 9 = 9/10

Mr. Hillman is the goat and he's an amazing teacher and cares a lot about mental health, but it's somewhat memorization heavy (similar to biology but not nearly as bad, and he allows redos). He asked the class if they wanted to have an exam, everyone obviously said no and he was like well okay. Lets you drop a mark at the end of the course. Also lots of free marks so you can probably get 98+% without much trouble.

Electives to take in Grade 12

EWC4U1 - Lajeunesse

8/10

Ms. Lajeunesse is still Ms. Lajeunesse, and this course isn't much different compared to the grade 11 course except that it has more writing, and she expects you to mix with the non-TOPS kids in the class. As the name suggests, it focuses more on creative writing as opposed to essays. There are also more quickwrites if you're into those.

FSF4U1 - MacKillop

Mr. MacKillop's class is in second semester, so we can't write anything yet.