

UNDERSTANDING RECENT CHANGES TO THE R SCORE

Dear Students:

You recently received your updated R scores on the St. Lawrence portal. *This document is meant to address the questions you might have concerning the R score.* Please refer to the links below for very complete information.

What is the importance of the R score?

The R score is used to evaluate an application for admission to limited enrollment programs at university. Please note, however, that “other criteria may replace or supplement the R score in the selection of candidates.” (The R-score: what it is, and what it does, question 3.1.) For more information, contact Nicole Anne Daigle, Guidance Counsellor (room 272).

Why can a student, whose grade for a course is clearly above the group average indicated on his or her cegep transcript, obtain an R score which is lower than he or she expected? (Questions and answers on the college R score, question 20.)

“The group average calculated by a cegep for a course is not the same as the group average used in the calculation of the R score. The group average used for calculating the R score might be higher because all the grades of the group below 50 are excluded from the calculation of the R score. This is not the case for the group average indicated on the student’s cegep transcript.”

Why do I have three R scores?

When you look at the portal, you will see three (3) R scores:

The first (CRC) is the *cote de rendement global*, the global average R score. It takes into consideration all of the R scores you have obtained, regardless of the program of studies in which you studied. (If you changed programs, all R scores would be tabulated here.)

The global average R score “is the weighted average of that student’s valid R scores...” *The weighting is a function of the number of units attributed to each course. Thus, the R score obtained in a course to which was attributed 2.66 units is multiplied by this number (2.66), while the R score in a course of 2 units is multiplied by 2.”* (The R score: What it is, and what it does, question 3.2).

Sometimes students fail courses. How does this affect the calculation of r scores?

According to the document prepared by CREPUQ (The R score: What it is, and what it does, question 3.3), “for the first term of registration at cegep, failed courses only count for one quarter of the units allocated to the course, in other words they have a weighting of 0.25; for subsequent terms, the weighting is 0.50. This method of calculation is applied for all records present in the ministerial system.”

The second is the cote de rendement par programme. This one is identified according to the program in which you were registered at the time the R score was compiled. An example would be 200.B4: This program number refers to the Science Program (Pure and Applied Science Profile).

It will tabulate all general education courses - the 14 English, French, Humanities, Physical Education, and complementary courses - for which you obtained an R score as well as all of the concentration courses in your program.

The third is PRÉAL.UNIV (préalables universitaires). If you were a student in the cegep system last year, this R score was identified with the numbers 080.04. The request for a change to actual wording (*préalables universitaires*) came from CREPUQ (*Conférence des Recteurs et des Principaux des Universités du Québec*).

- **The *préalables universitaires* refer the list of courses which are identified as university prerequisites and the course competencies linked to them.** The course competencies can be either partially or fully attained.
- In the student’s file at the Ministry of Education, the competency code linked to the course is indicated in the PRÉAL.UNIV column.
- If the course is linked to more than one objective at the college, the list of objectives will be indicated.
- If there is no objective linked to the course, but the course is defined as a university prerequisite, an X will be placed in the column to indicate this.
- If you are wondering how this list is compiled, rest assured that the process is a complex one. **The Ministry’s database examines the local versions of each college’s program profile as these relate to the concentration courses. In general education courses, the search is extended to all colleges. For the complementary courses within the general education courses, only courses ending with RE (or what are referred to a cours réseau) are examined.**
- *How can a course competency be partially attained? What does that mean? Because sometimes several courses are taken before a course competency can be fully attained.*
- *If you are wondering what a course competency is, recall that cegep education is competency based. Whenever you pass a course, you can see the competency you attained (either fully or partially) on your student transcript. As well, the course outline for each course you take indicates the competency (or competencies) you will attain upon successful completion of the course.*

What is the purpose of all of this information?

As you might guess, this is to better permit universities to analyze your request for admission to university programs. The fine-tuning of these R scores has come about at the request of CREPUQ.

What are the university prerequisites identified by CREPUQ?

The courses are selected among the individual program profiles each college submits to the Ministry of Education.

In Science, these are the 9 obligatory courses students must take:

- ✓ Math NYA, NYB, NYC;
- ✓ Chemistry NYA, NYB;
- ✓ Physics NYA, NYB, NYC;
- ✓ Biology NYA

If you are in the Health Science profile, this also includes Organic Chemistry BNB and Major Life Processes BNC.

In Social Science, these are:

- ✓ Initiation to Methodology 300-300-RE
- ✓ Introduction to Psychology 102
- ✓ Macroeconomics 920
- ✓ Quantitative Methods 360-300-RE
- ✓ The Human Body 101-901-RE (if taken)
- ✓ Math 103, 203, 105 (if taken)

In CALL (Creative Arts, Literature and Languages), these are:

- ✓ Spanish 101, 201, 301, 401, 501 (if taken)
- ✓ German 101, 201, 301, 401

In the P.W. Sims Business Program, these are:

- ✓ Only the Math 103, 203, 105 courses taken by students as pre-university pre-requisites.

What happens if I changed program? What does the university look at then?

If you refer to Question 5 in the document entitled Questions and Answers on the College R Score, you will find information concerning university admissions for Fall 2009. This was a very important year, since universities began to “*use the average R score of the last DEC program in which the candidate has registered, under the condition that at least 16 courses contribute to its calculation.*”

Normally, if you never changed program, the average R score and the program R score should be the same. Sometimes it is slightly different. This may be caused by the following factors:

- **The course in which you were registered had fewer than 6 students and no R score was generated.** We understand that this is disappointing for students. Unfortunately, we cannot make an R score appear.

- **You took a course as a complementary course for which you received an R score, but a substitution (SU) appears on your academic transcript to reflect the correct complementary course number.** Even though each substitution is carefully linked to the course number, grade and R score, Socrate (the Ministry of Education's computer system) does not recognize the link. We have been informed that this would cause the system to be unmanageable. Only the courses for which you obtained an R score are examined by SOCRATE.
- For some students, not having the R score recognized, is an advantage, as their program R score is higher than their average R score. For students who obtained a high R score for their complementary course, this may be a disadvantage. We do recognize that this situation is not ideal for our students.

For more information about the R score, please consult the [documents](#) prepared by CREPUQ.

If you have other questions concerning your R score, consult the bulletin board at the top of the stairs (third floor) or see Nicole Anne Daigle, Guidance Counsellor (room 272) or Joanne Coleman-Robertson, Academic Advisor (room 234).

Joanne Coleman-Robertson

Academic Advisor

January 25, 2010