



University of Manitoba  
Faculty of Arts  
Department of Economics

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

COURSE DETAILS.....	2
INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION.....	2
COURSE DESCRIPTION .....	3
COURSE GOALS .....	3
INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES .....	3
GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION.....	3
USING COPYRIGHTED MATERIAL .....	3
RECORDING CLASS LECTURES .....	3
TEXTBOOK, READINGS, MATERIALS .....	4
COURSE TECHNOLOGY.....	4
CLASS COMMUNICATION.....	4
ACADEMIC INTEGRITY.....	4
STUDENTS ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES .....	5
EXPECTATIONS: I EXPECT YOU TO .....	5
EXPECTATIONS: YOU CAN EXPECT ME TO .....	5
CLASS SCHEDULE.....	6
COURSE EVALUATION METHODS.....	7
GRADING .....	7
REFERENCING STYLE .....	8
ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTIONS .....	8
ASSIGNMENT GRADING TIMES .....	8
ASSIGNMENT EXTENSION AND LATE SUBMISSION POLICY .....	9
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION – ACADEMIC SUPPORTS AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS.....	9
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION – MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS .....	10
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION – A NOTICE WITH RESPECT TO COPYRIGHT .....	11
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION – UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND PROCEDURES.....	11

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## COURSE DETAILS

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<b>Course Title &amp; Number:</b>	ECON 4822: Economic research and communication
<b>Number of Credit Hours:</b>	6
<b>Class Times &amp; Days of Week:</b>	Monday 11:30-2:15
<b>Location for classes/labs/tutorials:</b>	Lectures: St. John's College, Room 114 Practicals/Labs: Machray Hall, Computer Room 111
<b>Pre-Requisites:</b>	A grade of "C" or better in each of ECON 2040 (or the former ECON 3170 (018.317)) and ECON 3040 (or the former ECON 3180 (018.318)) and [a grade of "C" or better in ECON 2010 (or ECON 2451 or the former ECON 2450 (018.245) or the former ECON 2700 (018.270))] and [a grade of "C" or better in ECON 3010 (or ECON 2461 or the former ECON 2460 (018.246) or the former ECON 3700 (018.370))] and [a grade of "C" or better in ECON 2020 (or ECON 2471 or the former ECON 2470 (018.247) or the former ECON 2800 (018.280))] and [a grade of "C" or better in ECON 3020 (or ECON 2481 or the former ECON 2480 (018.248) or the former ECON 3800 (018.380))]. Registration is restricted to students who have formally declared an Advanced Major in Economics or Honours Economics.

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## Instructor Contact Information

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<b>Instructor(s) Name:</b>	Sarah Tougher
<b>Preferred Form of Address:</b>	Sarah
<b>Office Location:</b>	Room 645 Fletcher Argue
<b>Office Hours:</b>	Office hours: Monday 10:15-11:15 (other times available by appointment. Please arrange via email)
<b>Office Phone No.</b>	204-474-7613
<b>Email:</b>	Sarah (I will usually respond within 48 hours)
<b>Contact:</b>	During office hours; appointments outside of office hours must be arranged via email

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## Course Description

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This is the capstone course for students in their final year of the B.A. (Adv.) major in Economics. The aim of this course is to develop some of the research, analytical, and writing skills that will allow students to utilize knowledge and quantitative skills acquired in previous economics courses.

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## Course Goals

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This is the capstone course for students in their final year of the advanced economics major program. The aim of this course is to teach students to examine issues in an economic context. Students will learn to apply economic methods to current issues, and to evaluate these critically using skills they have learned in a variety of economics courses. Students are required to choose a topic for their term paper that is relevant to Canadian economic policy, and conduct an appropriate econometric analysis using a Statistics Canada dataset. Students will learn how to access and use these data sets. Students will also learn how to conduct literature reviews, and to develop a theoretical background for their topic. The term paper is due in April, and students will be expected to make and show regular progress throughout the two semesters

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## Intended Learning Outcomes

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At the end of the course, students will have learned how to write an in-depth policy relevant paper, using economic theory from previous courses to frame and analyze a policy issue, and will have learned to work with data for this type of research.

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## General Course Information

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The course is a workshop-style course. There will be three types of sessions: lectures, practicals and labs. During lectures, students will learn all the steps required to complete the term paper. Students will have the opportunity to practice the skills required for the paper during practicals, and then will have time to work on their assignments in a supervised setting in labs.

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## Using Copyrighted Material

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I and the University of Manitoba hold copyright over the course materials, presentations and lectures which form part of this course. No audio or video recording of lectures or presentations is allowed in any format, openly or surreptitiously, in whole or in part without my permission. Course materials (both paper and digital) are for the participant's private study and research.

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## Recording Class Lectures

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Given the ease of audio and video recording and the tendency of some students to post the class lecture to the internet, the instructor should give some consideration to whether or not they are comfortable with being recorded. A statement about copyright should be included here. You hold the copyright to all of your course material that you prepare and present

**Example:** I and the University of Manitoba hold copyright over the course materials, presentations and lectures which form part of this course. **No audio or video recording of lectures or presentations** is allowed in any format, openly or surreptitiously, in whole or in part

without my permission. Course materials (both paper and digital) are for the participant's private study and research.

### Textbook, Readings, Materials

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<u>Required Textbooks:</u>	None
<u>Suggested Textbooks:</u>	Any intermediate micro- and macroeconomics and statistics/econometrics textbooks
<u>Readings:</u>	Resources will be made available or referenced online. Please check UMLearn regularly to access this material.

### Course Technology

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I will be using UMLearn (<https://universityofmanitoba.desire2learn.com/d2l/login>) to post solutions and learning material. Please check frequently to ensure you have all the material. You must submit all work via UMLearn. See the Centre for the Advancement of Teaching & Learning for details on online resources

([http://intranet.umanitoba.ca/academic\\_support/cat/resources/umlearn.html](http://intranet.umanitoba.ca/academic_support/cat/resources/umlearn.html)).

You are required to write a program in STATA® for the data analysis of the paper. This software is available on all university computers. You will also be required to use the library database.

### Class Communication

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The University requires all students to activate an official University email account. For full details of the Electronic Communication with Students please visit:

[http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/media/Electronic Communication with Students Policy - 2014 06 05.pdf](http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/media/Electronic_Communication_with_Students_Policy_-_2014_06_05.pdf)

Please note that all communication between myself and you as a student must comply with the electronic communication with student policy

([http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing\\_documents/community/electronic communication with students policy.html](http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing_documents/community/electronic_communication_with_students_policy.html)). You are required to obtain and use your U of M email account for all communication between yourself and the university.

### Academic Integrity

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University policy on academic integrity will be enforced. A full description of academic integrity matters, including plagiarism and cheating, can be found in Section 8 of the General Academic Regulations and Requirements of the University of Manitoba. Ignorance of the regulations and policies regarding academic integrity is not a valid excuse for violating them.

#### Penalties for Academic Dishonesty.

The minimum penalty for plagiarism on a written assignment is F on the paper and may result in a grade of F-DISC (discipline) for the course. This notation appears on the student's transcript. For the most serious acts of plagiarism, such as the purchase of an essay and repeat violations,

this penalty can also include suspension from the Faculty of Arts for a period of up to one year. The Faculty also reserves the right to submit student work that is suspected of being plagiarized to Internet sites designed to detect plagiarism. The minimum penalty in Arts for academic dishonesty on a test or final examination is F for the test/examination and a grade of F-DISC for the course, plus a one-year suspension from the Faculty of Arts. The F grade and disciplinary notation appears on the student's transcript. For more serious acts of academic dishonesty on a test or examination, such as repeat violations, this penalty can also include suspension for a period of up to five years from the Faculty of Arts

## **Students Accessibility Services**

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### **Student Accessibility Services**

If you are a student with a disability, please contact SAS for academic accommodation supports and services such as note-taking, interpreting, assistive technology and exam accommodations. Students who have, or think they may have, a disability (e.g. mental illness, learning, medical, hearing, injury-related, visual) are invited to contact SAS to arrange a confidential consultation.

*Student Accessibility Services* <http://umanitoba.ca/student/saa/accessibility/>

520 University Centre

204 474 7423

[Student\\_accessibility@umanitoba.ca](mailto:Student_accessibility@umanitoba.ca)

## **Expectations: I Expect You To**

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I expect you to attend classes regularly. During practicals and labs, you are expected to be working while in the lab (i.e., not writing personal emails, etc.). Please note you may only ask questions about your STATA program during these lab times – use your time wisely and make sure to keep up with your work. Disruptive behaviour, such as talking about matters unrelated to the course will not be tolerated. I will treat you with respect and would appreciate the same courtesy in return. See [Respectful Work and Learning Environment Policy](#).

## **Expectations: You Can Expect Me To**

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This is a work-shop style course. A large portion of this course will involve labs where you are expected to work on your project. I will be available to answer your questions during the labs. You can also expect me to provide timely feedback on your work. I aim to return assignments within 2 weeks of the due date.

## Class Schedule

Please note that the schedule below is subject to change.

### Fall schedule

Date	Class Content	Location	Evaluation <sup>1</sup>
Sept 10	Lecture 1: Intro & overview	114 St. John's	
Sept 17	Practical 1: Intro to the library - Part 1 By: Asako Yoshida	111 Machray	Practical activity 1 (1%)
Sept 24	Practical 2: Introduction to the datasets	111 Machray	Practical activity 2 (1%)
Oct 1	Practical 3: Intro to the library - part 2 By: Asako Yoshida	111 Machray	Practical activity 3 (1%)
Oct 8	No class – university closed	-	
Oct 15	Lecture 2: Data analysis and proposal	114 St. John's	
Oct 22	Practical 4: Introduction to Stata	111 Machray	Practical activity 4 (1%)
Oct 29	Lab 1: Data analysis and lit review	111 Machray	
Nov 5	Lab 2: Data analysis and lit review	111 Machray	Before class via UMLearn: Proposal (20%)
Nov 12	No class – university closed	-	
Nov 19	Lab 3: Data analysis and lit review	111 Machray	
Nov 26	Lab 4: Data analysis and lit review	111 Machray	Before class via UMLearn: Literature review list (10%)
Dec 3	Test: Stata and lecture material	114 St. John's	Test (15%)

<sup>1</sup> Note: Practical exercises will be completed during class and handed in at the end. All other assignments will be submitted through UMLearn **before the start of class.**

**Winter schedule**

Date	Class Content	Location	Evaluation <sup>1</sup>
Jan 7	Lab 5: Data analysis and lit review	111 Machray	
Jan 14	Lecture 3: Pulling it all together	114 St. John's	Before class via UMLearn: Stata do file and results (10%)
Jan 18 – Voluntary Withdrawal Deadline			
Jan 21	Practical 5: Citing your sources By: Asako Yoshida	111 Machray	Practical activity 5 (1%)
Jan 28	Lecture 4: Term paper grading	114 St. John's	
Apr 8		-	Before class via UMLearn Term paper due (40%)

<sup>1</sup> Note: Practical exercises will be completed during class and handed in at the end. All other assignments will be submitted through UMLearn **before the start of class**.

**Course Evaluation Methods**

Refer to the Assignment Description on the following page of the syllabus for Details.

Due Date:	Assessment Tool	Value of Final Grade
Practical exercise completed in class during practical sessions. Various dates: Sep 17, Sep 24, Oct 1, Oct 22, Jan 21	Practical exercises (completed in class)	5%
November 5 <sup>th</sup> , 11:30 AM	Proposal	20%
November 26 <sup>th</sup> , 11:30 AM	Literature review list	10%
December 4 <sup>th</sup> , 11:30 AM	Test	15%
January 14 <sup>th</sup> , 11:30 AM	Stata do files and result tables	10%
April 8 <sup>th</sup> , 11:30 AM	Term paper	40%

**Grading**

Indicate your grading scale. A sample is given below that you can adjust to your course expectations.

Letter Grade	Percentage out of 100	Grade Point Range	Final Grade Point
A+	95-100	4.25-4.5	4.5
A	86-94	3.75-4.24	4.0
B+	80-85	3.25-3.74	3.5
B	72-79	2.75-3.24	3.0
C+	65-71	2.25-2.74	2.5
C	60-64	2.0-2.24	2.0
D	50-59	Less than 2.0	1.0
F	Less than 50		0

## Referencing Style

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Assignments should use the APA reference style.

## Assignment Descriptions

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Practical exercises: during practicals you will be given an exercise to complete in class. These should be handed in at the end of class to demonstrate participation.

Proposal: your proposal should describe the topic that you are planning to work on, provide background for it, including the economic theory that the topic is related to, justify why it is important, include at least 3 academic references to support this, state which dataset will be used, and the variables that will be used from this dataset, and state the expected findings. It should be well-written, concise, and be approximately 2-3 single-spaced pages in length. Most of the proposal should be justification and background – these should be at least 1 single-spaced page. The purpose is for you to do some preliminary research about your topic to help you get started, and to ensure that your topic is feasible. /

Literature review list: you will learn to conduct how to search the literature using library databases. Your literature review list will comprise approximately 15 academic papers that you found using the library's website, 1 – 2 sentences (point form) justifying the inclusion of each, and the database and search terms you used to find it. You have to choose your references carefully – you will be graded on having references that are relevant to your topic. The purpose of this is to make sure that you are selecting appropriate references for your term paper and that you know how to do that.

Stata do file and results: you will learn how to write a program in Stata and how to present your results in tables. Your Stata program should be correct – you will be handing in electronic versions, and I will run each program to ensure that it works. You can still make changes to your program before completing your final term paper to hand in by April, but most of your program should be there by this point.

Term paper: in this class you will learn to write a comprehensive paper that investigates an economic issue. At the end of the course, you must have a paper that includes all sections that we discussed, that is written by you (i.e. not plagiarized), that is well-written, well researched and comprehensive. Grades will be assigned for organization, writing, content, interpretation and all other aspects discussed in class.

## Assignment Grading Times

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I will try to return material that you hand in within 2 weeks. However, I try to provide useful comments that will help you improve your term paper, which can take time, and so some material may take longer than this to be returned.



## **Assignment Extension and Late Submission Policy**

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No extensions are given except for documented medical or compassionate reasons. Make sure you keep up with the coursework. Late submission will be penalized 10% per day.

## **Additional Information – Academic Supports Available to Students**

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### **Writing and Learning Support**

The Academic Learning Centre (ALC) offers services that may be helpful to you throughout your academic program. Through the ALC, you can meet with a learning specialist to discuss concerns such as time management, learning strategies, and test-taking strategies. The ALC also offers peer supported study groups called Supplemental Instruction (SI) for certain courses that students have typically found difficult. In these study groups, students have opportunities to ask questions, compare notes, discuss content, solve practice problems, and develop new study strategies in a group-learning format.

You can also meet one-to-one with a writing tutor who can give you feedback at any stage of the writing process, whether you are just beginning to work on a written assignment or already have a draft. If you are interested in meeting with a writing tutor, reserve your appointment two to three days in advance of the time you would like to meet. Also, plan to meet with a writing tutor a few days before your paper is due so that you have time to work with the tutor's feedback.

These Academic Learning Centre services are free for U of M students. For more information, please visit the Academic Learning Centre website at: <http://umanitoba.ca/student/academiclearning/>

You can also contact the Academic Learning Centre by calling 204-480-1481 or by visiting 201 Tier Building.

### **University of Manitoba Libraries (UML)**

As the primary contact for all research needs, your liaison librarian can play a vital role when completing academic papers and assignments. Liaisons can answer questions about managing citations, or locating appropriate resources, and will address any other concerns you may have, regarding the research process. Liaisons can be contacted by email or phone, and are also available to meet with you in-person. A complete list of liaison librarians can be found by subject: <http://bit.ly/WcEbA1> or name: <http://bit.ly/1tJ0bB4>. In addition, general library assistance is provided in person at 19 University Libraries, located on both the Fort Garry and Bannatyne campuses, as well as in many Winnipeg hospitals. For a listing of all libraries, please consult the following: <http://bit.ly/1sXe6RA>. When working remotely, students can also receive help online, via the Ask-a-Librarian chat found on the Libraries' homepage: [www.umanitoba.ca/libraries](http://www.umanitoba.ca/libraries).

## **Additional Information – Mental Health Support Available to Students**

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**For 24/7 mental health support, contact the Mobile Crisis Service at 204-940-1781.**

### **Student Counselling Centre**

Contact SCC if you are concerned about any aspect of your mental health, including anxiety, stress, or depression, or for help with relationships or other life concerns. SCC offers crisis services as well as individual, couple, and group counselling. *Student Counselling Centre:*

<http://umanitoba.ca/student/counselling/index.html>

474 University Centre or S207 Medical Services

(204) 474-8592

### **Student Support Case Management**

Contact the Student Support Case Management team if you are concerned about yourself or another student and don't know where to turn. SSCM helps connect students with on and off campus resources, provides safety planning, and offers other supports, including consultation, educational workshops, and referral to the STATIS threat assessment team.

*Student Support Intake Assistant* <http://umanitoba.ca/student/case-manager/index.html>

520 University Centre

(204) 474-7423

### **University Health Service**

Contact UHS for any medical concerns, including mental health problems. UHS offers a full range of medical services to students, including psychiatric consultation.

*University Health Service* <http://umanitoba.ca/student/health/>

104 University Centre, Fort Garry Campus

(204) 474-8411 (Business hours or after hours/urgent calls)

### **Health and Wellness**

Contact our Health and Wellness Educator if you are interested in information on a broad range of health topics, including physical and mental health concerns, alcohol and substance use harms, and sexual assault.

*Health and Wellness Educator* <http://umanitoba.ca/student/health-wellness/welcome.html>

[Katie.Kutryk@umanitoba.ca](mailto:Katie.Kutryk@umanitoba.ca)

469 University Centre

(204) 295-9032

### **Live Well @ UofM**

For comprehensive information about the full range of health and wellness resources available on campus, visit the Live Well @ UofM site:

<http://umanitoba.ca/student/livewell/index.html>

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### **Additional Information – A notice with respect to copyright**

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All students are required to respect copyright as per Canada's *Copyright Act*. Staff and students play a key role in the University's copyright compliance as we balance user rights for educational purposes with the rights of content creators from around the world. The Copyright Office provides copyright resources and support for all members of the University of Manitoba community.

Visit <http://umanitoba.ca/copyright> for more information.

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### **Additional Information – University policies and procedures**

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#### **Your rights and responsibilities**

As a student of the University of Manitoba you have rights and responsibilities. It is important for you to know what you can expect from the University as a student and to understand what the University expects from you. Become familiar with the policies and procedures of the University and the regulations that are specific to your faculty, college or school.

The [Academic Calendar](#)

<http://umanitoba.ca/student/records/academiccalendar.html> is one important source of information. View the sections *University Policies and Procedures* and *General Academic Regulations*.

While all of the information contained in these two sections is important, the following information is highlighted.

- If you have questions about your grades, talk to your instructor. There is a process for term work and final **grade appeals**. Note that you have the right to access your final examination scripts. See the Registrar's Office website for more information including appeal deadline dates and the appeal form <http://umanitoba.ca/registrar/>
- You are expected to view the General Academic Regulation section within the Academic Calendar and specifically read the **Academic Integrity** regulation. Consult the course syllabus or ask your instructor for additional information about demonstrating academic integrity in your academic work. Visit the Academic Integrity Site for tools and support <http://umanitoba.ca/academicintegrity/> View the **Student Academic Misconduct** procedure for more information.
- The University is committed to a respectful work and learning environment. You have the right to be treated with respect and you are expected conduct

yourself in an appropriate respectful manner. Policies governing behavior include the:

### **Respectful Work and Learning Environment**

[http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing\\_documents/community/230.html](http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing_documents/community/230.html)

### **Student Discipline**

[http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing\\_documents/students/student\\_discipline.html](http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing_documents/students/student_discipline.html) and,

### **Violent or Threatening Behaviour**

[http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing\\_documents/community/669.html](http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing_documents/community/669.html)

- If you experience **Sexual Assault** or know a member of the University community who has, it is important to know there is a policy that provides information about the supports available to those who disclose and outlines a process for reporting. The **Sexual Assault** policy may be found at: [http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing\\_documents/community/230.html](http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing_documents/community/230.html) More information and resources can be found by reviewing the Sexual Assault site <http://umanitoba.ca/student/sexual-assault/>
- For information about rights and responsibilities regarding **Intellectual Property** view the policy [http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/media/Intellectual\\_Property\\_Policy\\_-\\_2013\\_10\\_01.pdf](http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/media/Intellectual_Property_Policy_-_2013_10_01.pdf)

For information on regulations that are specific to your academic program, read the section in the Academic Calendar and on the respective faculty/college/school web site <http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/>

Contact an **Academic Advisor** within our faculty/college or school for questions about your academic program and regulations <http://umanitoba.ca/academic-advisors/>

### **Student Advocacy**

Contact Student Advocacy if you want to know more about your rights and responsibilities as a student, have questions about policies and procedures, and/or want support in dealing with academic or discipline concerns.

<http://umanitoba.ca/student/advocacy/>

520 University Centre

204 474 7423

[student\\_advocacy@umanitoba.ca](mailto:student_advocacy@umanitoba.ca)