

YEAR PLAN

MSU SRA Social Science Caucus

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2024-2025
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OFFICE OF THE SRA SOCIAL SCIENCE CAUCUS LEADER INTRODUCTION

Dear Social Science Students,

My name is Kashish, and I am excited to serve as your Social Science Caucus Leader for the Student Representative Assembly (SRA). Our team, consisting of two new and two returning members, brings fresh ideas and experience to student governance. Our year plan focuses on enhancing the quality of life for Social Science students and reflects on how we can best serve the Social Science community.

One of our primary goals is to foster collaboration with the McMaster Social Science Society (MSSS). By working closely with the MSSS, we aim to host larger, more engaging events and communicate MSU news effectively, leading to increased engagement and improved student life on campus. Additionally, we plan to facilitate regular mixers between the 12 Social Science programs to promote interdisciplinary connections. Another one of our focuses is connecting social science students with local organizations and volunteering opportunities in Hamilton to enhance their experience.

Our program is uniquely diverse, with students engaged in various interests and making significant contributions across the community. This year's plan is dedicated to fostering a spirit of giving back and encouraging greater involvement among Social Science students!

Yours Sincerely,
Kashish Modi
2024-2025 Social Science Caucus Leader

GOALS

Objective 1	Establish regular communication with McMaster Social Science Society (MSSS) to ensure alignment and collaboration on initiatives
Description	As many students are not aware of the differences between the MSSS and the SRA Soc Sci Caucus, it is best to collaborate on events to obtain the best turnout possible for both groups. As they both cater to the same demographic, the SRA can use it as a way to share news about the MSU to the body it governs.
Benefits	More engagement for the MSU as the MSSS shares some of the same. Better student life on campus as students will be able to go to bigger and better events if there is support from the MSU.
Difficulties	Organization from the MSSS and failed contact from previous years has led to missed opportunities and unfamiliarity, posing challenges to get events and collaboration started.
Long-Term Implications	A possible partnership for years to come making events and initiatives more possible and better than ever. The MSU Soc Sci caucus can also have a better way to connect to Soc Sci students through the MSSS.
How?	Reach out to the MSSS on Instagram along with consulting with Kashish Modi, SRA Soc Sci Caucus leader who also has an active position on the MSSS executive team.
Partners	MSSS Social Science Faculty Administration (dean, vice-dean, etc.) SRA Caucus Leader Kashish Modi

Objective 2	Program Mashups & Mixers
Description	Facilitate and support regular collaborations/mixers between the 12 Social Science programs to emphasize interdisciplinary connections
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhances cross-disciplinary understanding &

	<p>collaboration within social sciences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fosters a more holistic approach to addressing societal challenges in future fields
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination & scheduling challenges across diverse programs • Ensuring equitable participation/engagement from all departments
Long-Term Implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultivates a culture of interdisciplinary innovation • Prepares students and faculty for complex, real-world problem-solving
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish regular networking events, mixers, workshops, and seminars. • Utilize common platforms for ongoing collaboration and knowledge-sharing (MSSS?)
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MSSS + respective program societies • Related MSU clubs

Objective 3	Connecting Beyond Campus
Description	Connecting Social Sciences students to careers, local organizations, and volunteer opportunities in the broader Hamilton community
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhances employability and practical experience • Builds networks and professional relationships • Enriches academic learning with real-world experiences • Particularly important for programs without a Co-op option (currently 3/12 SocSci programs offer co-op)
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinating schedules or facilitating events between students and organizations • Securing meaningful engagement opportunities
Long-Term Implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stronger community ties • Improved job placement rates for graduates • Sustained community partnerships
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnering with local organizations to advertise internships and volunteer programs (streamlining

	<p>their openings onto OscarPlus)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing engagement with already-existing career/volunteer fairs, work to bring vendors related to Social Sciences (career fair is currently dominated by non-SocSci tables) Organizing networking events with MSSS, program societies, etc. Incorporating community projects into curricula
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local businesses/non-profits Public agencies McMaster Alumni Association SocSci Careers & Experiential Education Team SRA Municipal Affairs Committee

LONG-TERM PLANNING

Overarching Vision 1	Advocating to make OscarPlus more accessible & user-friendly
Description	This is an unfinished goal from SocSci SRA 2022. OscarPlus has a significant bounty of student resources- job postings, advisor appointments, and informational events. However, navigating this portal is difficult for constituents as the platform tends to not be user-friendly and malfunctions often. This goal will work towards firstly communicating OscarPlus's opportunities in an accessible format to students and secondly working alongside relevant stakeholders to revamp the platform itself.
Benefits	Awareness of and utilization of OscarPlus's opportunities will increase. Students will gain greater access to relevant services provided by the university.
Year 1	Release tutorials every 3 months on SRA accounts on accessing relevant services, particularly those for Social Sciences students. While McMaster has basic tutorials for this, they are 3+ years old and outdated. Advertise and boost new postings, opportunities, and SocSci-specific workshops. Begin outreach to UTS, CEE SocSci department, and other relevant partners.

Year 2	Continue above work advertising OscarPlus opportunities as they arise. Greater emphasis & energy on partnering with UTS and SSC. Advocate for more frequent maintenance & revamping for accessible user experiences.
Year 3	Expanding work beyond SocSci & continue, with greater pressure, advocating to make OscarPlus accessible, user-friendly, and known to the student body.
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University Technology Services • Student Success Centre • Social Science Careers & Experiential Education Team

Overarching Vision 2	Bring homecoming back to campus safely and effectively
Description	Once a staple of McMaster student life, homecoming over the past few previous years has been abandoned with students turning to alternative street parties that have proven to be dangerous and unsafe. Therefore, the MSU Soc Sci caucus plans to help establish a new homecoming event that will once again become a staple event in student life.
Benefits	By helping implement a rejuvenated and regulated homecoming festival on campus, student life will greatly improve as students will have an opportunity to show school spirit, enjoy live music, food and drinks, and socialize with others in a safe and regulated environment. Therefore, there is a high possibility that MSU engagement will increase, and previous problems associated with unofficial street parties will be minimized.
Year 1	Promote and advertise the new homecoming event and listen to feedback for what social science students want the new homecoming event to look like in future years (Pilot year)
Year 2	Review the previous year's homecoming event and analyse steps for improvement along with incorporating ideas from the SRA to better support the event for the coming year.
Year 3	Continue to look for sponsors to further better student life through homecoming and look to see if other sport teams

	want to be involved as well. By year three, the SRA will discuss if the idea of a homecoming on campus organized by the MSU is a viable and successful option going forward.
Partners	MSU Campus Events MSU President Jovan Popovic MSU Vice President of Finance Declan Sweeny City of Hamilton Counsellors Hamilton Police

GOALS to strive for

List 5 things that you would like to have prepared for the beginning of September

- SRA SocSci Instagram page active with caucus members introduced
- Connecting with incoming class of SocSci students about the SRA & opportunities in MSU (collaborating with BluCru, faculty accounts, etc.)
- Deciding on & advertising SRA SocSci office hours
- Being aware and informed of all SRA related bylaws and procedures
- Planning roles and tasks within the caucus to as productive and fair as possible

List 5 things you would like to have completed during the fall term (1st)

- Apply for SLEF fund to finance mixer events alongside program societies
- Establish communication with at least 4 local businesses/nonprofits/agencies/organizations in the community related to SocSci careers (for internships, networking events, career fairs, curricula engagement, etc.)
- Have outreach hours to understand the concerns and feedback that social science students have
- Obtain feedback and support the idea of having a homecoming back on campus along with inquiring about the idea of having social science specific activities at the event
- Discover ways and begin conversations with Oscar Plus developers to become more user friendly (carry over goal from year before)

List 5 things you would like to have completed during the winter term (2nd)

- Establish communication with at least 4 local businesses/nonprofits/agencies/organizations in the community related to SocSci careers (for internships, networking events, career fairs, curricula engagement, etc.)
- Discuss with MSU Campus events and the MSU board on if Homecoming was a success and to submit feedback from the event to them
- Support the initiative of having soup for McMaster students as engagement was the only factor stopping from passing the referendum the previous year
- Have a collaborative fun event with the MSSS to boast social science spirit. This can be through the Social Science musical or formal.
- Inquire and discuss the benefits and negatives of Wilson college, a new social science program being developed that is designed to bring the brightest students together in a new and collaborate way to boast leadership and public engagement among students. (Similar to Arts and Science Program).

MASTER SUMMARY

June	Discuss and distribute roles within the caucus for productivity and fairness
July	Starting conversations with the MSSS and reviewing the Social Science year plan
August	IG Intro posts organized + created
September	IG intro posts rolled out & publicized along with Homecoming planning
October	Promotion of homecoming and furthering talks with the MSSS. Attend the MSSS fall general assembly.
November	Begin planning an event to help connect Social Science students with career pathways in Hamilton.) Collaboration

	with PFA committee)
December	Discuss ways on how program mixers can be established and how different programs within the faculty can collaborate to create better event for Soc Sci student life on campus
January	Begin conversations with the developers of OscarPlus on ways to improve user friendliness
February	Host alongside the PFA committee the event that showcases carriers and pathways/opportunities through Hamilton
March	Review findings from homecoming with the MSU Board and reflect on the achievements and shortcomings on the previous year as a caucus.