ADVICE FOR INCOMING STUDENTS
PREPARING FOR COURSE REGISTRATION
KENYON COLLEGE
OFFICE OF ACADEMIC ADVISING
AGENDA

• WHAT’S THE BIG PICTURE?
• OK, BUT WHAT ABOUT CLASSES?
• ANY QUESTIONS?
WHAT’S THE BIG PICTURE?
WHAT DO WE WANT YOU TO LEARN AND UNDERSTAND?

- The meaning & power of liberal arts education
- Self-reflection & self-assessment
- Self-efficacy & self-direction
- Accountability & responsibility
- Informed decision-making
THE MEANING & POWER OF LIBERAL ARTS EDUCATION

CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING....

• What is essential for a fulfilling & valuable life?
• What kinds of questions do you have about the world?
• How can a liberal arts education help you find the answers?
• What role do your faculty & peers play in this process? What kinds of conversations can you engage in both inside & outside the classroom?

ONCE YOU ARRIVE, you’ll have the chance to dig into these questions – deeply & critically – with your advisor, faculty, peers & many others.
SELF-REFLECTION & SELF-ASSESSMENT

• What do you want out of your college experience? Why did you choose Kenyon in the first place?
• What do you want to accomplish/prioritize in your first year? Academically? Co-curricularly? Personally? Socially?
• What are you excited/nervous about? What are your strengths/weaknesses?
• As you reflect & assess....

WHO ARE YOU? WHAT IS YOUR STORY AT THIS MOMENT?
WHAT WILL YOUR STORY BE IN THE FUTURE?
SELF-EFFICACY & SELF-DIRECTION

- What are your primary academic/co-curricular interests?
  - What were your strongest areas of study/involvement in high school?
- What other areas are you looking to explore?
  - What subjects/disciplines do you want to find out more about?
- Your Kenyon experience is a holistic Kenyon experience.
  - Academics provide the foundation. Consider what else you want to tackle.
- Consider alternative options that may simply look interesting.
  - Everything in the first year will inevitably count toward something.
ACCOUNTABILITY & RESPONSIBILITY

- Read & respond (if necessary) to any & all email correspondence within 24-48 hours, particularly from your advisor, instructors, the Advising Office, & the Registrar’s Office (with deadlines) NOTE: Your Kenyon email is the official form of communication between you & the College – check your inbox at least once daily
- Review & understand academic policies & procedures, including degree & major/minor/concentration requirements
- Monitor academic progress toward degree completion
- Access academic resources: Time/work management (SASS), academic support/tutoring (MSSC, Writing Center, FLATNET, SASS), research skills (LBIS) (You’ll also get to know these acronyms!)
- Access campus resources: Health, Counseling, Housing & Residential Life, Dean of Students, Financial Aid, Student Accounts
INFORMED DECISION-MAKING

• Take advice from all sources (advisor, faculty, parents, friends, etc.)
• Consider all sources & the quality/applicability of the advice
• Make decisions that make sense (while keeping in mind academic requirements & policies)
• Think through the costs & benefits of all decisions
• Take ownership of all decisions & associated outcomes
OK, BUT WHAT ABOUT CLASSES?
COURSE REGISTRATION

• First-year registration (during Orientation)
  • Advisees meet as a group with their faculty advisor & then individually with their faculty advisor
  • The advisor provides each advisee with an alternate PIN to confirm that course selections were discussed
  • The Orientation Leader works with advisees to input their personal PIN, their alternate PIN, & their finalized course selections during their course registration period (which takes place during Orientation prior to the start of classes)
BASIC CONSIDERATIONS

- **UNITS**: What kind of load can you complete successfully? What else do you have taking up your time this semester?
  - RECOMMENDED: 1.75-2.25 units, 2.00 typical load – Don’t try to do too much!

- **DEGREE REQUIREMENTS**: Have you completed your foreign language requirement? (Seats are reserved largely for first-year students.) What requirements would you like to tackle first? Don’t push any requirements too far out (especially not to your senior year!)
  - RECOMMENDED: Foreign language in the first year (if possible & applicable)

- **DEPARTMENT/PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**: Have you reviewed the requirements for any departments/programs of interest? Check out First Things First & department/program websites for appropriate introductory courses.
  - RECOMMENDED: Introductory course or first-year seminar in area(s) of interest

- **BREADTH**: What kind of content would you like to engage with in your first year? Consider coursework across a broad range of departments.
  - RECOMMENDED: Stretch yourself! Make sure to build in disciplinary balance!

- REMEMBER: You need to be enrolled in *at least* 0.50 units in 2 different departments in any semester!
1. If AP/IB credits do not show up on your advising transcript (available on Personal Access Pages) by the end of July, first consult the Registrar’s Office & then (re-)submit all AP/IB scores if necessary. AP/IB scores are critical for placement purposes & unit cushioning (in case of unexpected course withdrawals). AP/IB scores cannot be applied toward diversification or quantitative reasoning requirements.

- **Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate Programs**

- **NOTE:** AP/IB scores submitted as part of application materials will not be reviewed by the Registrar for credit – only official scores sent by the College Board & the International Baccalaureate Organization will be reviewed for credit.
FIRST-YEAR PRIORITIES CONTINUED

2. Take all math, science, foreign language, & music placement exams during Orientation for appropriate placement. DO NOT MISS THESE EXAMS!

3. If you’re remotely interested in pre-health & pre-engineering pursuits, attend the pre-professional sessions during Orientation for important information, particularly regarding math/science sequences.

4. Attend the department presentations/fair for exposure to departments & faculty in a wide range of disciplines/fields. Consider opportunities to engage with content across the academic spectrum, especially areas you may not have previously encountered.
STRATEGIC DECISIONS

1. IDENTIFY 10-12 COURSES OF INTEREST. AVOID ATTACHMENT TO A PARTICULAR SCHEDULE.
2. Consider timing of classes (morning vs. afternoon vs. evening, during lunch or practice, MWF vs. TR vs. other format → sleep schedule, practice schedule, potential of missing classes)
3. Consider length of classes (shorter vs. longer → attention span)
4. Consider size & type of classes (“large” lecture vs. “small” seminar vs. lab class → learning style)
5. Consider qualitative vs. quantitative coursework (reading/writing vs. numbers → strengths/weaknesses)
6. Consider familiarity with course content (previous exposure vs. limited awareness → engagement)
7. Consider level of coursework (introductory vs. advanced → preparation)  
8. Consider type of assessments (quizzes & exams vs. papers & projects → strengths/weaknesses)  
9. Consider application toward degree & major/minor/concentration requirements → Getting started on disciplines/fields of interest  
10. ACKNOWLEDGE PREFERENCES. SEEK CHALLENGES. FIND BALANCE.

NOTE: College coursework tends to be significantly more intense in terms of pace & volume than high school – & even AP/IB – coursework. Consider whether you can reasonably & successfully take on in college what you were able to take on in high school.
ON-LINE RESOURCES & TOOLS

• Review the First Things First guide (for degree requirements & course enrollment information)
• Review department websites (for majors/minors/concentrations of early interest & appropriate introductory courses)
• Review the Searchable Schedule (to explore & bookmark course options)
• Review current & previous semester enrollments on the Schedule of Courses (to assess which courses to prioritize)
• If applicable, review pre-health & off-campus study information
ON-LINE RESOURCES & TOOLS

• First Things First
  • Resources for Students
• Department websites
  • Departments and Programs
• Searchable Schedule
  • Browse Next Semester’s Course Offerings
• Current & previous semester enrollments
  • Schedule of Courses
• Pre-health requirements
  • Pre-Health Advising Network
• Off-campus study
  • Off-Campus Study
WHAT IF I DON’T GET INTO THE CLASSES I WANT?!

1. Take a deep breath. You won’t always get everything you want. Come to terms with that.
2. Reach out to the instructor via email, speak with them before or after class, & make sure to convey your strong interest in the class. Know that space limitations & other issues may prevent the instructor from offering you a seat.
3. Consider additional options from your original list of 10-12 courses of interest.
4. Consider course options that you hadn’t originally explored.
5. Never plan on obtaining a seat in a class – always have a PLAN B (or C or D).
6. Make sure to inquire whether the class will be offered in a future semester. If you’re that interested, you’ll want to find out whether you’ll have the chance to take it later.
COURSE ENROLLMENT DEADLINES

- ADD/DROP (no fee) – First 7 class days
- INDEPENDENT STUDY (IS) (no fee) – First 7 class days
- AUDIT (AU) (no fee) – First 7 class days
- LESSONS & ENSEMBLES (no fee) – As noted on the Academic Calendar (Consult MUSC regarding lesson costs)
- LATE ADD (fee) – First 3 weeks
- PASS/D/FAIL (no fee) – First 6 weeks
- WITHDRAW (WD) (fee) – First 8 weeks (without going below 1.75 units for the semester)
- WITHDRAW ILLNESS (WI) (no fee) – Extenuating health circumstances (with documentation & petition approval)
- WITHDRAW LATE (WL) (no fee) – One-time only option to be underenrolled for the semester, by last day of classes
  - NOTE: The WL option can not be applied to the second semester of a year-long class

Course Enrollment and Schedule Change Procedures
CAMPUS RESOURCES & TOOLS

INDIVIDUALS

• Faculty advisors
• Orientation Leaders
• Department faculty
• Community advisors
• Athletic coaches (if applicable)
• Peer counselors/supports

RESOURCES ARE ESPECIALLY CRITICAL IN THE FIRST YEAR OF COLLEGE ADJUSTMENT – DO NOT HESITATE OR WAIT TO ASK FOR HELP! CAMPUS RESOURCES EXIST TO SUPPORT YOU.

OFFICES

• Orientation Office
• Registrar’s Office
• Office of Academic Advising
• Student Accessibility & Support Services (SASS)
• Math & Science Skills Center (MSSC)
• Writing Center
• Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (ODEI)
• Center for Global Engagement (CGE)
• Financial Aid Office
• Career Development Office (CDO)
ANY QUESTIONS?