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!
FIRST-YEAR PRIORITIES

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.


   • 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

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)
STRATEGIC DECISIONS

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
  - [http://www.kenyon.edu/directories/offices-services/registrar/resources-for-students/](http://www.kenyon.edu/directories/offices-services/registrar/resources-for-students/)
- Department websites
  - [http://www.kenyon.edu/academics/departments-programs/](http://www.kenyon.edu/academics/departments-programs/)
- Searchable Schedule
  - [http://www1.kenyon.edu/catalog/](http://www1.kenyon.edu/catalog/)
- Current & previous semester enrollments on the Schedule of Courses
  - [http://www.kenyon.edu/directories/offices-services/registrar/schedule-of-classes/](http://www.kenyon.edu/directories/offices-services/registrar/schedule-of-classes/)
- Pre-health requirements
  - [http://www.kenyon.edu/academics/departments-programs/premed/health-professions-advising-committee/](http://www.kenyon.edu/academics/departments-programs/premed/health-professions-advising-committee/)
- Off-campus study
  - [http://www.kenyon.edu/academics/study-abroad-off-campus-learning/](http://www.kenyon.edu/academics/study-abroad-off-campus-learning/)
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 cannot be applied to the second semester of a year-long class

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?