

The background features a dark blue gradient with faint, light blue circular patterns and a scale on the left side. The scale is a semi-circle with tick marks and numbers ranging from 140 to 260 in increments of 10. Several circular elements, some solid and some dashed, are scattered across the background, some containing curved lines or arrows.

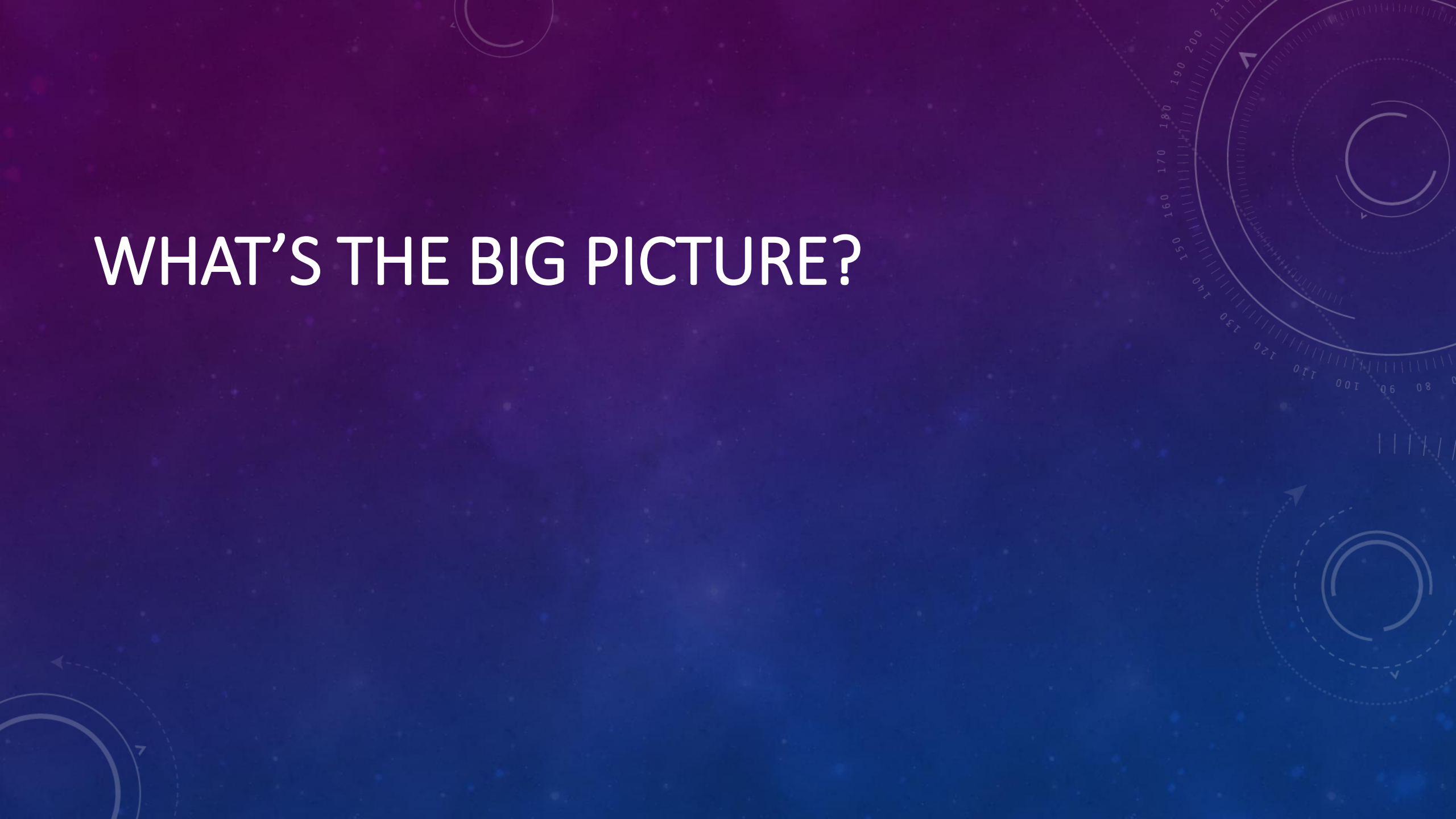
# ADVICE FOR INCOMING STUDENTS PREPARING FOR COURSE REGISTRATION

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 (OL) 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.
  - <http://www.kenyon.edu/directories/offices-services/registrar/registration/ap-and-ib-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

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/>
- Department websites
  - <http://www.kenyon.edu/academics/departments-programs/>
- Searchable Schedule
  - <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/>
- Pre-health requirements
  - <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/>

# 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

<http://www.kenyon.edu/directories/offices-services/registrar/course-catalog-2/administrative-matters/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?

