

Academic and Advising Information for Arts and Sciences and Double-Degree Students

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This section pertains primarily to students enrolled in the College of Arts and Sciences and to double-degree students, although some information may also be important for conservatory students.

Academic Advising

The Office of the Dean of Studies coordinates academic advising for all students in the College of Arts and Sciences, and it also provides specialized advising and assistance for all international students.

The purpose of the Advising Program at Oberlin College is to help students develop meaningful educational plans and goals, make the most of their educational choices, reflect on and synthesize their Oberlin experiences, and grow intellectually, artistically, and personally.

Advising at Oberlin College is holistic and provides a range of advising resources necessary for students to define and achieve educational, career, and personal goals. Educational (academic) advising is offered by faculty members and also by members of the administrative and professional staff. Each new arts and sciences student is assigned an academic advisor. When a student declares a major, he or she is required to choose an advisor from the department or program of the major. Students receive career advising from faculty members and staff members in the Office of Career Services and other offices. Personal advising is offered by many offices within the Division of Student Life and Services, other campus offices, and by members of the faculty.

Double-degree students have two advisors, one in the College of Arts and Sciences and one in the Conservatory of Music.

During Orientation, arts and sciences and double-degree students are expected to attend group advising sessions and an individual appointment with their academic advisor. The initial advising sessions will occur before a student can register for courses. For more information about course registration, read the Student Record and Course Registration Information section in this book. If you have questions, please e-mail first.year.advice@oberlin.edu.

The Advisor Information Form

Students enrolling in the College of Arts and Sciences, including double-degree students, must complete the Advisor Information Form. The Office of the Dean of Studies uses this information to match you with an appropriate advisor. The information also helps your advisor to

know something about you before your first meeting. **This form must be returned by June 15, 2009.**

Bachelor of Arts Requirements

The *Course Catalog* (catalog.oberlin.edu) contains detailed information about Oberlin's curriculum, degree requirements, and academic policies. Degree requirements are summarized below.

To graduate from the College of Arts and Sciences, students must complete the requirements of a major. Students are required to declare a major before they complete 56 credit hours, usually by the end of their fourth semester.

Students must complete at least 112 credit hours and three full-credit winter-term projects. Of the 112 credits, no more than 84 can be taken in a single division, and no more than 56 may be from a single department or program. These distribution requirements ensure that students select a broad variety of courses and graduate with a true liberal arts education.

In addition, at least nine credit hours must be taken from each of the three divisions (arts and humanities, social and behavioral sciences, and natural sciences and mathematics) of the College of Arts and Sciences, and from at least two departments or programs within each division.

Oberlin also requires students to take at least nine credit hours in courses dealing with cultural diversity. These courses must be taken in at least two departments or programs and may count simultaneously toward the nine credits required in each division. Students are encouraged to achieve proficiency in a foreign language equivalent to second-year, college-level work. For students who have already done significant study in a language, placement exams are available as noted below.

Finally, students must demonstrate both writing and quantitative proficiency. Completing the distribution requirements within the first two years is highly recommended.

Double-Degree Requirements

For their BA degree, double-degree students are required to declare a major in the College of Arts and Sciences by

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the end of their fifth semester. They must also complete the requirements listed in the prior section, with the following exceptions:

- double-degree students must complete a total of 152 credits;
- double-degree students must complete 62 non-music, liberal arts credits;
- double-degree students are exempt from the requirement that no more than 84 credits be taken in a single division.

Prospective double-degree students declare their conservatory major as part of the admissions process. To find the requirements of their particular conservatory major, students should consult the appropriate section of the *Course Catalog*.

Double-degree students should frequently consult both of their academic advisors to ensure that all requirements for both majors are completed within 10 semesters.

Advanced Placement and Placement Exams

Each academic department sets its own policy for granting advanced placement (AP) credit for its courses. Please consult the *Course Catalog* for information about each department.

East Asian Studies: Students can take a placement exam in Japanese during the summer or in Chinese during Orientation. For general information about language instruction, visit www.oberlin.edu/eas. For information about the Japanese placement exam, contact Ikuko.Kurasawa@oberlin.edu. For information about the Chinese placement exam, contact Fang.Liu@oberlin.edu.

Online versions of placement exams for **French, German, Italian, Japanese, Russian** and **Spanish** are available so that students may take them prior to their arrival for Orientation. Visit <http://languages.oberlin.edu/> placement for detailed information. These tests will also be available during Orientation. To learn more about specific language instruction at Oberlin, use the contact information listed below:

French and Italian: www.oberlin.edu/frenital
 French: Matthew.Senior@oberlin.edu
 Italian: Ivana.Di.Siena@oberlin.edu

German: www.oberlin.edu/german
Elizabeth.Hamilton@oberlin.edu

Russian: www.oberlin.edu/russian
Tim.Scholl@oberlin.edu

Spanish: www.oberlin.edu/hispanic
Sebastian.Faber@oberlin.edu

The Departments of Biology, Chemistry and Biochemistry, and Mathematics also administer placement tests for some of their courses.

Biology: Exemption tests are offered for BIOL 100, *Organismal Biology*, and BIOL 102, *Genetics, Evolution, and Ecology*. The exemption tests are equivalent in content to the final exams for these courses. The exemption tests are offered twice per year—they may be taken only once and are not open to students who have taken the courses. Students who score 5 on the AP Biology exam or 6 on the IB Biology are automatically exempt from these courses—please see “Biology” in the *Course Catalog*. Students who have AP or IB exemption should know that these introductory courses are appropriate and helpful for those intending to take the MCAT or GRE exams, so they should discuss their course choices with a professor. Students who elect to take either exemption test (or both) are expected to have working familiarity with the content of the course syllabi. To review course syllabi, or for more information, contact the department by telephone (440-775-8315) or visit the department web site at www.oberlin.edu/biology.

Chemistry and Biochemistry: CHEM 103 is a general chemistry course for students with strong pre-college preparation in chemistry. Students who have scored 3 or higher on the AP chemistry examination automatically qualify for the course and do not need to take the placement exam. For more information or for a sample test, contact the department by telephone (440-775-8300) or visit the department web site at www.oberlin.edu/chem.

Mathematics: Students wishing to enroll in an entry-level calculus course (MATH 131, 132, or 133) must take the Calculus Readiness exam, which covers pre-calculus only. (You are urged to review your pre-calculus prior to taking the Calculus Readiness exam.) Likewise, students wishing to enroll in an entry-level statistics course (MATH 113 or 114) must take the Statistics Readiness exam. These tests will be available during Orientation and throughout the academic year. For more information, visit the department web site at www.oberlin.edu/math.

All placement test times are listed in the Orientation schedule, which is online at www.oberlin.edu/newstudents/orientation. If a test for a course that you are concerned about is not

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listed, contact the course instructor over the summer by e-mail or phone, or in person during Orientation.

Orientation

New Student Orientation is designed to introduce you to the wide range of resources available to students at Oberlin and to prepare you for the exciting and challenging transition to college life. This year, students are welcome to move in on August 25; Orientation officially begins at the end of the afternoon. Parents are welcome to accompany new students to events on August 25 through midday on August 26. During Orientation, you will have the opportunity to meet other new students, returning students, and members of the faculty and staff as well as learn a great deal and have fun. You can view the Fall 2009 Orientation program online at www.oberlin.edu/newstudents/orientation. You will receive a printed Orientation booklet when you arrive on campus in August.

Student Academic Ambassadors Program

The Student Academic Ambassadors provide first-year students with a network of peer advisors to turn to as they negotiate the academic, administrative, and cultural terrain of Oberlin College. You will be able to find academic ambassadors at nearly all of the events of Orientation, and they can assist you with your fall course selection, explain how to enroll in ExCo courses, and help you select a great winter-term project. Likewise, academic ambassadors can address more mundane questions, such as where to eat and how to rent a bicycle. Academic ambassadors are available throughout your first semester at Oberlin, and they are eager to help you establish a solid foundation for your academic career at the College.

Planning Your Schedule and Registering

It normally takes four years, or eight semesters, for arts and sciences students to earn the 112 credit hours required to graduate. That averages to 14 credits per semester. Students must register for a minimum of 12 credits and a maximum of 16 credits each semester.

It generally takes five years, or 10 semesters, for double-degree students to earn the 152 credit hours required to graduate. Double-degree students may carry a maximum of 17 credits and must average between 15 and 16 credits per semester to fulfill their graduation requirements on time.

In planning your course schedule, keep in mind that stu-

dents spend roughly two hours outside class preparing for each hour in class. However, time in class and time you will need to complete assignments vary among fields.

Remember that you will likely have other obligations, so don't overload yourself. For example, work-study jobs often take 10 hours per week. Athletics and other activities will also place demands on your time. Try to plan a schedule that allows you to pursue your educational goals and do your best work, but also leaves time for you to sleep enough, eat well, and enjoy your friends.

If you are sure of your intended major, review the information in the *Course Catalog* about fulfilling the major requirements and begin to construct your course schedule accordingly. Even if you are sure of your intended major, we recommend that you take only one course in a single department during your first semester.

If you are unsure about your choice of major—as many students are when they begin college—read through the department offerings in the *Course Catalog* to find course options that interest you. Try to arrange a first-semester schedule that will allow you to sample courses in a range of departments.

Meeting days and times for individual courses are listed online. See the Fall 2009 Schedule of Classes at www.oberlin.edu/regist/fall09schedule.html.

Once you have identified courses that interest you, use the online registration worksheet at www.oberlin.edu/regist/worksheet.doc to plot your schedule. Avoid scheduling conflicts and select alternatives in case your primary choices are not available when you register. You will need to bring your planned schedule and alternative course selections to your meeting with your advisor.

Although new students will not have completed their course schedules before arriving on campus, it is important for students and their parents to know that Oberlin's fall 2009 semester final exam period is Tuesday, December 15, through Saturday, December 19, 2009. The final exam schedule will be posted on the registrar's web site, www.oberlin.edu/regist, by July 15, 2009. Once a student's class schedule is finalized, using course syllabi and the final exam schedule, it is possible to determine when a student's obligations are complete so that travel arrangements can be made. Students are expected to take final examinations at the scheduled time; travel schedules are

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not considered a legitimate reason to request a change in exam times.

Arts and sciences students interested in taking music courses in the Conservatory should review the pertinent information listed below and in the Academic and Advising Information for Conservatory Students section in this book.

First-Year Seminar Program

Oberlin's First-Year Seminar Program (FYSP) is designed to help new students begin the challenging adventure of becoming thoughtful agents of their own education. First-year seminars help students think about the connections among their courses and the personal significance and relevance of their studies. Seminars are offered in a variety of disciplines, and topics are drawn from the special interests and expertise of faculty members. All are designed not only to hone students' skills in critical and creative thinking, writing, and discussion, but also to acquaint students with the values that sustain a community of learning.

Because enrollment in each seminar is limited to 14, students have a unique opportunity to test their ideas, learn from others, and get to know a professor well in a small classroom setting. Oberlin strongly encourages all students to enroll in a first-year seminar. Seminars are offered during the fall and spring semesters.

For further information and course descriptions, see the *First-Year Seminar Program Course Catalog* included with this book. You can also visit the program's web site, www.oberlin.edu/fys.

Summer Registration

During the summer, first-year students in the College of Arts and Sciences and first-year double-degree students are required to select one or two courses for registration. **The Summer Registration Request form is due by June 15, 2009.** Requests are processed by the Office of the Registrar in order of the date on which they are received, so it is important to return the form as soon as possible.

To select courses, check the online list of courses available for early registration (www.oberlin.edu/regist/openclasses.doc). This list excludes courses that require prerequisites, placement examinations, or auditions. Course descriptions can be found in the *Course Catalog* (catalog.oberlin.edu).

Before completing the Summer Registration Request,

please read the Student Record and Course Registration Information in this book. If you have questions, e-mail first.year.advice@oberlin.edu.

Music Opportunities for Arts and Sciences Students

Lessons and Ensembles: Arts and sciences students interested in taking private lessons for credit may audition during Orientation or the first week of classes. Sign-up sheets and instructions are posted on the Conservatory Associate Deans' web site (www.oberlin.edu/condean) and on the Applied Studies bulletin board outside of room 113 in Bibbins Hall. Students are placed with faculty or student teachers as availability allows. Please note that space is often limited. Students approved for secondary study can register for the lessons during the add/drop period. Students not approved for lessons for credit may study privately with a student teacher for a nominal fee. Arts and sciences students may audition for most conservatory large ensembles. Large ensemble auditions take place during Orientation and the first week of classes.

Conservatory Classes: One introductory music history course is offered each year specifically for arts and sciences students: CMUS 103, *Introduction to Musics of the World*. This course requires no prior musical training. MHST 101, *Introduction to the History and Literature of Music*, accepts arts and sciences students with advanced musical preparation. Students interested in the musical studies major in the College of Arts and Sciences are encouraged to take MHST 101.

Arts and sciences students may also take music theory and aural skills classes as space is available. To be placed into music theory and or aural skills, students must take a placement test before arriving on campus. The test is available on the Conservatory Associate Deans' web site or at www.oberlin.edu/octet/PlacementExam/MusicTheory. Students interested in preparing for the theory test are referred to *Scales, Intervals, Keys, Triads, Rhythm, and Meter*, a workbook by John Clough (Norton, ISBN 0-393-97369-7). Aural skills placement tests are given during Orientation. Space in music theory and aural skills classes is limited and priority is given to conservatory majors. Arts and sciences students may find that they have to wait a semester or two before being placed into one of these classes.

For more information, visit the Conservatory Associate Deans' web site at www.oberlin.edu/condean.