

Below are some things to remember as you begin to plan and prepare for your academic future.

- **EXPLORE!** Your schedule as a first semester student will include four courses. Pick at least two or three courses that will allow you to explore your interests. Your advisor will be a valuable help here.
- **EXPLORE!** If you have already identified a particular academic area of interest, be sure to register for courses that will allow you to explore it. See the planning forms in the tabbed section of this Guidebook.
- **EXPLORE!** If you are curious about a course or subject that you have never studied, select an exploratory course in that area.
- **IF** you are thinking about **Elementary/Special Education, Music Education, Health Policy, and Management, the Sciences, Social Work or Business** majors, review the relevant *Academic Planning Forms* in the tabbed pages of the *Guidebook* to select the recommended first semester/year course(s). Some majors require an early start.
- **IF** you are interested in continuing with a **language** or starting a new one, now is the time. This is a good way to develop your college-level academic skills. You may decide to complete a language minor, major or apply your language skills during study abroad.
- **IF** you are interested in exploring the Sciences, Mathematics, Economics or Business majors which all require a specific Math course, it is wise to select the appropriate math course early. Some majors have specific math requirements; some require more than one semester. Generally, you should take the math course level that you are recommended for based on the results of your Math Placement test. If it is a higher level math than required for a major, it will still satisfy the major requirement. If it is a lower level math, you will need to take another course later. Sometimes it is better to select a math/quantitative reasoning course which provides some review before taking the next level.
- **IF** you are NOT interested in a major which requires a specific math course, it is recommended that you defer taking a Quantitative Reasoning Core course until you determine your major. You may have future opportunities to fulfill the Quantitative Reasoning Core requirement with more interesting choices with a major content element (i.e. Statistical analysis type courses are offered in the social sciences) and such courses are typically not taken in the first semester.
- **BE FLEXIBLE!** Each semester, once you have selected the courses you want to take, be sure to identify some alternatives. You are never guaranteed that your first choices will have seats available.
- **BE ORGANIZED!** Use the *Academic Planning Form* to plan and organize your course schedules.
- **BE ADVISED!** If you are not sure, ask your advisor.

...and a few **DON'Ts**

- **DON'T** select a course for which you have earned AP credits (carefully review AP Equivalency Chart). AP credits **may** exempt you from an introductory course or **may** fulfill a core requirement.
- **DON'T focus on the core requirements** while you are exploring majors. Many of the exploratory courses you select will also meet core requirements, and, with very few exceptions, you have plenty of room in your four-year program of study for electives. Courses that meet specific core curriculum requirements are identified on *CyberFriar*.
- **DON'T be concerned about DWC.** All freshmen are pre-registered for a section of *DWC 101: Development of Western Civilization*.
- **DON'T limit your exploration** to courses. Talk to department representatives, students, and your professors about your interests.