

Preparing for Summer Advising and Registration



Preparing for your advising discussion

An advising discussion is an opportunity for you to talk with your advisor about your personal goals for college and beyond and to consider how the many exciting course options available this fall can help you reach your goals.

An advising discussion is most productive if you've taken some time to prepare by thinking about what you're excited about and taking a look at the courses that are offered this fall.

Before your advising appointment

- Be ready to talk about your interests and goals including and beyond your major and career plans. This can help you and your advisor to find courses that will be a good match for you. Be prepared to be surprised by how many different types of classes can help you explore and meet your goals, including courses that you may not have considered before talking with your advisor! If you haven't yet completed your [Advisor Questionnaire](#), be sure to log onto [Portal](#) to complete that now.
- You should spend some time exploring the [Courses for First Years](#) links on the [Incoming Students Website](#).
 - In addition to your AMP intro, You'll also register for additional courses from the [Courses for First-Years](#). These courses have seats specially reserved for first-year students and most are 1.0 units each. You may also want to select dance or music lessons, which are frequently 0.25 units each. You can register for at least 2.0 and up to 3.5 units of coursework from these courses, for a total coursework load of 4.75 units for the fall semester.
- As you look for and at courses that interest you, you can learn more about the course by reading the course descriptions. This paragraph, written by the department and/or instructor, tells you what the course is about, and what you can expect to learn in it. Reading the course description can be particularly helpful if you are unfamiliar with an academic area.

Some Frequently-Asked Questions about Finding and Choosing Courses

If your question is not addressed here, please reach out to your AMP advisor by email. They're ready and willing to help you be as prepared as possible for your advising discussion!

How do I build a balanced schedule?

Most courses meet on Monday/Wednesday/Friday or Tuesday/Thursday schedules. It's a good idea to consider spreading your courses across both of these schedules. We also recommend that you pick some of your courses in morning timeslots and some in the afternoon. Of course, your interests and the scheduled meeting times for courses will direct some of these choices, but it is important to think carefully about the types of courses you're interested in and how you use your time when selecting courses. Your advisor can help you think about this as well.

How many classes should I pick?

You should identify at least 7-8 classes that you find interesting from the [Courses for First Years](#) to discuss with your advisor. You will register for up to 4.75 units of classes for the fall semester. This includes your [AMP Intro Course](#) and AMP Class, which together are 1.25 units. Most classes in the [Courses for First Years](#) are 1.0 unit. You may also want to add music lessons or dance classes, which are frequently 0.25 unit each. To keep financial aid and meet other residency requirements, you must be registered for at least 3 units for the fall semester.

I have AP or IB credit. How does that credit impact my course options for the fall?

Contact your advisor. AP and IB credit may be accepted for introductory courses at the college but departments do this differently. Your advisor has a lot of resources to help you determine what the best course is for you this fall, and you can email them before your appointment so they can be prepared to support your course selection process. Most importantly, make sure that your AP or IB results have been shared with Admissions as soon as possible. [More information on transfer credits \(including AP and IB credits\) can be found on the Registrar's website, linked here.](#)

Does Beloit College have gen-ed requirements that I should be aware of as I pick classes for the fall?

We have classes that are marked according to Liberal Arts Breadth Requirements, also known as *domain requirements*, which are five areas of knowledge that we believe are important for a strong educational foundation. We use a number/letter code to identify which courses count for domain requirements (1S, 2A, 3B, 4U, 5T). We also require students to take courses in writing, quantitative reasoning, and intercultural literacy, also known as *skills requirements*. We use a letter code to identify which courses count for skills requirements (W, Q, C). All of the [AMP Intro Courses](#) and many of the introductory courses listed in the [Courses for First Years](#) have a domain and/or a skill associated with them; you can see the code for these requirements in the course descriptions on Portal. Many students fulfill their domain and skill requirements without even trying by taking an array of courses from across the campus. [You can find more information about Liberal Arts Breadth Requirements \(domain requirements\) and Writing, Quantitative Reasoning, and Intercultural Literacy Requirements \(skills requirements\), including more on the codes used to designate these courses, on the Registrar's website, linked here.](#) And as always, your advisor is available to answer questions.