



# Fall-Term Course Selection Guide for First-Year Students

➤ The faculty adviser is a student's most important resource for selecting classes.

Others glad to help include:

- Dean of First-Year Students, David Leonard x8752, [dleonard@wlu.edu](mailto:dleonard@wlu.edu)
- Associate Dean of the College, Alison Bell x8746, [bella@wlu.edu](mailto:bella@wlu.edu)
- Associate Dean of the Williams School, Rob Straughan x8609 [straughanr@wlu.edu](mailto:straughanr@wlu.edu)
- University Registrar, Scott Dittman x8455, [sdittman@wlu.edu](mailto:sdittman@wlu.edu)

The University Course Catalog <http://catalog.wlu.edu/>  
and course offerings details <https://managementtools.wlu.edu/CourseOfferings/>  
also provide key information.

# Step 1: Understand the Requirement Framework

## Consult the Foundation and Distribution Requirements (FDR) Checklist

<http://www.wlu.edu/x35719.xml>

### Overview of FDR form:

**FDR**

**W&L FOUNDATION AND DISTRIBUTION REQUIREMENTS, 2011-12 CATALOG**

**FDR**

**Foundation:** complete all four areas

**FW) Writing** (check one box)

- proficient when entering W&L or WRIT 100

**FL) Foreign Language** (check one box)

- proficient when entering W&L (qualified to enter a third-year course) or one course chosen from CHIN 262; FREN 162, 164; GERM 262, 263; GR 202; ITAL 163; JAPN 262; LATN 202; PORT 163; RUSS 262, 263; SPAN 162, 164

**FP) Physical Education:** swimming proficiency and four skills courses

**FM) Mathematics and Computer Science:** one course

- CSCI 101, 102, 111,121; MATH 101,121

**Distribution in Sciences and Social Sciences:** four courses, at least one from each of the following three groups

**SL) Laboratory**

**SC) Additional Science, Mathematics or Computer Science**

**SS) Social Science:** two courses, one from two of five areas

**Distribution in Arts and Humanities:** four courses, at least one from each of three groups

**HU) Humanities**

**HA) Arts**

**HL) Literature**

**A fourth course selected from those in HU, HA, and HL**

## Step 2: See What Credit You've Received

- a) Log onto W&L WebAdvisor  
<http://www.wlu.edu/x33519.xml>



- b) View your “Academic Course History” to learn what credit or course equivalences you’ve been awarded for scores on AP, IB, or placement tests, or for college courses that you took elsewhere.

For example →

MATH-101P WAIVER / NO CREDIT	0.00
SPAN-112P WAIVER / NO CREDIT	0.00
BIOL-1SLN 100-LEVEL FDR-SL NON-MAJOR	4.00
POL-100 AMERICAN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT	3.00

- c) Run your “Degree Audit” on WebAdvisor to learn how these results count toward FDRs.
- d) Check courses that appear on your Academic Course History/Degree Audit off of your FDR list.

# Step 3:

## Read about What your Scores Mean for Next Steps

Consult “Results and Registration Recommendations” pages to look up the courses noted on your Academic Course History and see what next classes are suggested:

[http://www.wlu.edu/documents/registrar/policies/AP-IB\\_PLACEMENT.pdf](http://www.wlu.edu/documents/registrar/policies/AP-IB_PLACEMENT.pdf)

- Example 1:* If you scored a “5” on the AP Latin test, your Academic Course History will say “LATN 202 (3) FL,” meaning that you’ve received three credits for Latin 202 and completed the foreign language requirement (and checked it off your FDR list). The “Registration Recommendation” is to “take a 300-level Latin course.” You may choose to enroll in Latin 301, take no further language, or begin a new language. Your adviser can help with these considerations.

Latin Literature <b>OR</b> Latin (Vergil)	5	LATN 202 (3) FL	exempt FL; take a 300-level Latin course
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- Example 2:* If you took the German placement test and see on your Academic Course History “GERM 112P (0),” you’ll find, using the “Recommendation” pages, that you are at an intermediate level of German and should enroll in the next course in the sequence, German 261, this fall.

German	111		Register for GERM 111
	261	GERM 112P (0 credit)	Register for GERM 261
	300	GERM 2-FL-N (0 credit) FL exempt	Register for GERM 311, 314, 315 or 316

Pay especially close attention to math and languages.

There are appreciable differences between Math 101A and 101B, for instance, and rules for enrolling in French or Spanish vary from those for enrolling in Chinese, Russian, etc..

## Step 4: Begin Choosing Classes

- a) Be prepared to talk with your adviser about fall-term course selection as well as your possible longer-term plans for a major, study abroad, graduate/professional school or career trajectories.
- b) Plan to take four courses this fall. You should take at least 12 and no more than 14 credits. In exceptional cases, permission for 15 credits may be secured through the Dean of First-Year Students.
- c) Note that some classes have prerequisites or require instructor permission.
- d) Tentatively choose courses that
  - fulfill a FDR and/or
  - enable you to explore a potential major and/or
  - seem interesting to you and
  - are available (i.e., are “open,” not “closed” or “waitlisted”) and
  - create a viable schedule (with courses that aren’t offered at conflicting times. It’s usually best to have classes in different parts of the day, spread over five days).

# Step 5: Consider Taking Foundation Classes this Fall

- a) **Writing:** Unless you earned a 5 on the English AP test, you are expected to take Writing 100 in the fall or winter of your first year.
- b) It's generally wise to take *foreign language* and *math* classes early in your college career to maintain and build on the skills developed in high school.
  - **Foreign Language:** Unless your test results qualified you as “proficient” (exempt), you’re encouraged to enroll for a language class at the appropriate level (based on “Results and Registration Recommendations” as noted above). If you’re continuing in a language, taking a course this fall is especially important. If you’re starting a new language, consult your adviser about the choice and timing of courses.
  - **Mathematics or Computer Science:** Unless you received three credits for Math 101, consider enrolling for a math or computer science class.
    - A note on Math 101: Students with no previous calculus should enroll in Math 101B. (“B” is for “beginner” in calculus). Students with previous calculus experience may take Math 101A, D, E or H.
- c) Take a PE if you’re interested and it fits your schedule. (You’ll need to pass a swim test and take four PE skills classes to graduate.)

# Step 6: Take Possible Majors and Career Paths into Consideration

Most first-year students have not settled on a major (much less a career path), which is absolutely fine. W&L asks students to declare a major toward the end of the sophomore year.

With some majors or professional trajectories, it's good to take certain key classes during your first term.

Examples follow, organized alphabetically by category.

For more detailed information, please also consult:

- individual department web pages <http://www.wlu.edu/x18382.xml>
- “Curricular Advice for New Students” <http://www.wlu.edu/x35453.xml>
- the University Registrar’s web page <http://www.wlu.edu/x33519.xml>

# Recommendations from the Health Professions Advisory Committee

- If you are considering application to medical, dental, or veterinary school following your junior year of college, *it is important to take one laboratory science* in the first term of your first year of college.
- Specific recommendations for fall term (also see “Majors in the Life Sciences”):
  - 1) Lab Science
    - Biology 111 and 113 OR
    - Chemistry 111 and 111L
  - 2) Writing 100 if not exempt
  - 3) Foreign language at the level into which you tested if you’re continuing a language and are not exempt
  - 4) Math 101 or 102 (see your Academic Course History)
- If the writing, foreign language, or math classes you need are full, plan to take them in the winter and sign up for other classes that fulfill FDRs or allow you to explore an area of interest.
- If you’re unsure of your specific major in the sciences, you should likely take chemistry first so that you’ll be ready for biochemistry in your junior year (before the MCAT).
- Questions? Please plan to attend the Health Careers Information Session on Monday, September 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:45 a.m. in Lee Chapel, and/or contact Professor Lisa Alty (Chemistry).

# Majors in Accounting or Business Administration: Recommended First-Term Course of Study

- 1) *Economics* 101
- 2) *Writing* 100 if not exempt
- 3) *Foreign Language* at the level into which you tested if you're continuing a language and are not exempt
- 4) *Math* or *Computer Science* class if not exempt. Note that Math 101 is required for the Economics major and recommended for majors in Business and Accounting.
  - If the classes above are not available this term, choose other courses that fulfill FDRs and/or allow you to explore an area of interest.
  - Information sessions will be held in the fall term for students interested in these majors. Attendance at one of these sessions is important.
  - Students considering an accounting- or finance-related career are encouraged to take Accounting 201 in the winter term of their first year.
  - Questions? Please contact your adviser and/or pertinent department chair.

# Majors in the Arts: Recommended First-Term Course of Study

- 1) For majors in
  - a) Art or Art History, take Art History 101 or Studio Art 111 (Instructor consent is required to enroll in Studio Art)
  - b) Music, take Music 120
  - c) Theater, take any 100-level theater class
- 2) *Writing* 100 if not exempt
- 3) *Foreign Language* at the level into which you tested if you're continuing a language and are not exempt
- 4) Another class that fulfills an FDR or allows you to explore an area of interest
  - If above courses are not available this term, choose other classes that fulfill FDRs and/or allow you to explore an area of interest.
  - Questions? Please contact your adviser and/or pertinent department chair.

# Major in Environmental Studies: Recommended First-Term Course of Study

- 1) Students are advised to begin the Environmental Studies major by taking courses that fulfill major requirements (see catalog) and meet FDRs:
  - Environmental Studies 110 or
  - Biology 111/113 or
  - Economics 101 or
  - Geology 100 or
  - Philosophy 108
  
- 2) *Writing* 100 if not exempt
  
- 3) *Foreign Language* at the level into which you tested if you're continuing a language and are not exempt
  
- 4) Another class that fulfills an FDR or allows you to explore an area of interest
  - If any of the classes above are not available this term, choose other classes that fulfill FDRs and/or allow you to explore an area of interest.
  
  - Questions? Please contact your adviser and/or Professor Jim Kahn.

# Majors in Foreign Languages/Cultures: Recommended First-Term Course of Study

- 1) For a possible major in
  - a) East Asian Languages & Literature, take Chinese 111\* or Japanese 111\*
  - b) Classics, take Latin 101\* or Greek 101\*
  - c) German, take German 111\*
  - d) Romance Languages, take the French, Italian, Portuguese, or Spanish class into which you tested (for continuing work in a language) or you select (if starting a new language)
  - e) Russian Area Studies, take Russian 111\*

\* or the higher-level course into which the department placed you

2) *Writing* 100 if not exempt

3) Two other classes that fulfill FDRs or allow you to explore an area of interest

- For language courses, review notes about “Advanced Standing” on the “Results and Registration Recommendations” pages:

[http://www.wlu.edu/documents/registrar/policies/AP-IB\\_PLACEMENT.pdf](http://www.wlu.edu/documents/registrar/policies/AP-IB_PLACEMENT.pdf)

- More information about Advanced Standing is here:

<http://catalog.wlu.edu/content.php?catoid=5&navoid=367#advancedstanding>

- Questions? Please contact your adviser and/or pertinent department chair.

# Majors in the Humanities: Recommended First-Term Course of Study

- 1) For majors in
  - a) English, take Writing 100 unless exempt; if exempt, take any 200-level English course
  - b) History, take any 100-level history course (unless you scored a 5 on the AP, in which case you may enroll for a 200-level course)
  - c) Medieval and Renaissance Studies, take History 100 or 101 (then Medieval and Renaissance Studies 110 in the winter)
  - d) Philosophy, take any 100-level class; exceptionally qualified students may take higher-level courses with instructor permission
  - e) Religion, take any 100-level class
- 2) *Writing* 100 if not exempt
- 3) *Foreign Language* at the level into which you tested if you're continuing a language and are not exempt
- 4) Another class that fulfills an FDR or allows you to explore an area of interest
  - If above courses are not available this term, choose other classes that fulfill FDRs and/or allow you to explore an area of interest.
  - Questions? Please contact your adviser and/or pertinent department chair.

# Majors in Journalism and Mass Communications: Recommended First-Term Course of Study

- 1) *Journalism* 101 and/or a First-Year Seminar:
  - JOUR 180-01: Covering Great Trials in History: The Impact of the Press and the Public on Justice
  - JOUR 180-02: The Press and the Civil Rights Movement
- 2) *Writing* 100 if not exempt
- 3) *Foreign Language* at the level into which you tested if you're continuing a language and are not exempt
- 4) Another class that fulfills an FDR or allows you to explore an area of interest
  - If any of the classes above are not available this term, choose other classes that fulfill FDRs and/or allow you to explore an area of interest.
  - Questions? Please contact your adviser and/or Professor Pamela Luecke.

# Majors in the Life Sciences: Recommended First-Term Course of Study

1) For a possible major in

- a) Biology, take Biology 111 and 113
- b) Biochemistry, take Chemistry 111 and 111L
- c) Neuroscience, take Biology 111 and 113 *or* Chemistry 111 and 111L
- d) Psychology, take Psychology 111, 113, or 114

2) *Writing* 100 if not exempt

3) *Foreign Language* at the level into which you tested if you're continuing a language and are not exempt

4) *Math* 101 or 102 (see your Academic Course History)

- If the writing, foreign language, or math classes you need are full, plan to take them in the winter and sign up for other classes that fulfill FDRs or allow you to explore an area of interest.
- If you're considering application to medical, dental, or veterinary school, please be sure to read the Health Professions Advisory Committee Advice (above).
- Questions? Please contact your adviser and/or pertinent department chair.

# Majors in Mathematics or Computer Science: Recommended First-Term Course of Study

- 1) For a possible major in
  - a) Computer Science, take Computer Science 111 or appropriate level course based on your AP test results.
  - b) Mathematics, take appropriate level math course based on your AP, IB or W&L placement test results (e.g. Math 101, 102, 221)
- 2) *Writing* 100 if not exempt
- 3) *Foreign Language* at the level into which you tested if you're continuing a language and are not exempt
- 4) Another class that fulfills an FDR or allows you to explore an area of interest
  - For courses in computer science and mathematics, review notes about "Advanced Standing" on the "Results and Registration Recommendations" pages:  
[http://www.wlu.edu/documents/registrar/policies/AP-IB\\_PLACEMENT.pdf](http://www.wlu.edu/documents/registrar/policies/AP-IB_PLACEMENT.pdf)
  - More information about Advanced Standing is here:  
<http://catalog.wlu.edu/content.php?catoid=5&navoid=367#advancedstanding>
  - Questions? Please contact your adviser and/or pertinent department chair.

# Majors in the Physical Sciences: Recommended First-Term Course of Study

- 1) For a possible major in
  - a) Chemistry, take Chemistry 111 and 111L
  - b) Geology, take Geology 100
  - c) Physics or Engineering, take Physics 111A & 113
- 2) *Writing* 100 if not exempt
- 3) *Foreign Language* at the level into which you tested if you're continuing a language and are not exempt
- 4) *Math* 101 or 102 (or level indicated in your Academic Course History)
  - If above courses are not available this term, choose other classes that fulfill FDRs and/or allow you to explore an area of interest.
  - Questions? Please contact your adviser and/or pertinent department chair.

# Majors in the Social Sciences: Recommended First-Term Course of Study

- 1) For a possible major in
  - a) Economics, take Economics 101
  - b) Politics, take Politics 100, 105 or 111
  - c) Psychology, take Psychology 111, 113, or 114
  - d) Sociology/Anthropology, take Anthropology 101 or Sociology 102
- 2) *Writing* 100 if not exempt
- 3) *Foreign Language* at the level into which you tested if you're continuing a language and are not exempt
- 4) Another class that fulfills an FDR or allows you to explore an area of interest
  - If above courses are not available this term, choose other classes that fulfill FDRs and/or allow you to explore an area of interest.
  - Information sessions will be held in the fall term for students interested in the Economics and other Williams School majors. Attendance at one of these sessions is important.
  - Students considering an accounting- or finance-related career are encouraged to take Accounting 201 in the winter term of their first year.
  - Questions? Please contact your adviser and/or pertinent department chair.