Preparing for Your First Semester
Academic advisor

Professional staff member who serves as a teacher and educator for students

An academic advisor can help with:
• Course planning and scheduling
• Choosing the right major, minor or career
• Finding and using helpful Ohio State resources
• Learning about Ohio State policies and procedures
Your responsibility as a student:

• Meet with your academic advisor every semester
• Learn the university rules and policies
• Make an academic plan
• Come prepared
• Try new things
• Have fun
Your first semester

Today we will discuss:

• What your first semester class schedule might look like

• What you need to do now to be ready to enroll in classes

• What you need to do with your transfer credit

• How you can get enrolled into your classes before you arrive on campus
Your degree = 121 credit hours

Remaining hours needed to reach the minimum for graduation

Upper level work in the area of interest

In support of the major and taken before your major courses

Common to all degrees
Your first semester class schedule

1. College survey course   (1 credit hour)
2. English writing course   (3 credit hours)
3. Major course   (3-5 credit hours)
4. Major course   (3-5 credit hours)
5. General education course   (3 credit hours)

Students take an average of **five classes** in their first semester for a total of **14-17 credit hours**.
Your first semester class schedule

1. **College survey course**
2. English writing course
3. Major course
4. Major course
5. General education course
College survey course

- Required for all students in their first semester
- Taught by an academic advisor in your college
- Learn about your major and Ohio State
- Make a four-year degree plan
- Discuss career paths and preparation
Your first semester class schedule

1. College survey course

2. English writing course

3. Major course

4. Major course

5. General education course

Every major requires all students to take English writing courses.
English Writing Requirement

Edu TL 1901
Edu TL 1902

ESL classes
Level is based upon your ESL writing placement test

English 1110
English 2367

English writing classes
Required for ALL Ohio State students in every major
Which English class do I take?

**Freshman**

Take the online ESL Composition Placement Test

**Transfer**

Take the online ESL Composition Placement Test

If you previously attended a U.S. institution then review your transfer credit report to see if you have credit already for one of the required classes.
Your first semester class schedule

1. College survey course
2. English writing course
3. **Major course**
4. **Major course**
5. General education course

These classes will depend upon your program of study.
Example of a common Major course:

Most students will take a **math class** for their major course in their first semester.

All of these majors require you to take a math class in your first semester:

- Actuarial Science
- Architecture
- Business
- Computer Science
- Economics
- Engineering
- Mathematics
- All science fields (Chemistry, Biology, Physics)
- All Bachelor of Science majors
Which math class do I take?

**Freshman**

- Take the online Math Skills Assessment
- Or
- Use your Advanced Placement (AP) scores

**Transfer**

- Take the online Math Skills Assessment
- Or
- Have your math transfer credit evaluated by the math department *

*We will discuss this process later*
Your first semester class schedule

1. College survey course
2. English writing course
3. Major course
4. Major course
5. **General education course**

**All** majors require general education classes
General Education (GE) Curriculum

- Learn about a broad range of topics *outside* of your major area of interest
- Explore other interests beyond your major
- Build skills that will help you in your major and your future career
- Earn a well-rounded, holistic education that can apply to many future career paths
Examples of GE areas

Historical study: The goal is to learn about how past events influence today’s society and how we can use the past to make better decisions today.

- History of Art 2001: Western Art 1: Ancient and Medieval Worlds
- KNSISM 2210: History of Sport in 19th Century America

Natural science: The goal is to explain the principles, theories, and methods of modern science and to show the relationship between science and technology.

- Biology 1101: Introduction to Biology
- ENR 2100: Introduction to Environmental Science
Sample schedules
Sample first semester schedule (economics student)

College Survey: Arts and Sci 1100 (1 credit hour)
ESL Writing: EduTL 1902 – Academic Writing (3)
Major: Math 1151 – Calculus I (5)
Major: Economics 2001 – Microeconomics (3)
General Education: Theatre 2100 – Intro to Theatre (3)

You can see a list of all majors at majors.osu.edu
Sample first semester schedule (business student)

College survey: Bus Adm 1100 (1 credit hour)
English writing: EduTL 1902 – Academic Writing (3)
Major: Math 1151 – Calculus I (5)
Major: Econ 2001 – Microeconomics (3)
General Education: Biology 1102 – Human Biology (4)

Ohio State students take an average of 15-17 credit hours each semester.
Sample first semester schedule (engineering student)

College Survey: Engineering 1100 (1 credit hour)
English Writing: EduTL 1902 – Academic Writing (3)
Major: Math 1151 – Calculus I (5)
Major: Engineering 1181 – Fundamentals (3)
Major: Science – Chemistry or Physics (5)

Engineering program takes a minimum of eight semesters (four years) at Ohio State. This is true for transfer students too.
Questions?

I think I can guess... 😊
1. Can I change my major?

**Answer: Yes!** But you must wait until after you finish your first semester at Ohio State. Each major program will have different eligibility criteria.

Your academic advisor will help you select classes that can work for your current major AND the one you would like to change to.
2. I am a transfer student. How do I know what credit I will get for my courses?

Answer: Your advisor will help explain your credit. During orientation in August, your advisor will explain what requirements you have finished and what still needs to be completed.

Detailed instructions about the transfer credit review process will be provided by your academic advisor at orientation too.

*Tip: Bring an English copy of class descriptions and class syllabi to campus with you
3. When will I graduate?

**Answer:**

Freshman: Eight semesters (four years) for all majors
Transfer: Five–six semesters (three years) for most majors

Engineering is eight semesters (four years) minimum for both freshman and transfer students
4. When do I get to register for my classes?

**Answer: In early July!** An advisor in your major college will email you about your class registration during the week of July 10th -15th.

You MUST complete all placement tests by June 30th to be eligible for this early class enrollment.

You will also be able to meet with your advisor and change your classes when you come to your Immigration Check-in and Orientation sessions at Ohio State in August.
5. But how do I know what classes I should register for?

**Answer:** Your academic advisor will help with that!
Make sure to check your Ohio State email account EVERY DAY during the summer so that you don’t miss an important message from your advisor.

**Class registration will happen by the week of July 10-15**
**Your advisor will notify you via email when this is complete**
Still have other questions?

See me after the program with any questions that you still have!

Email an academic advisor in your college office (contact information is in your PDO booklet)
Reminders: next steps

1. Activate your OSU email account
   my.osu.edu
2. Take your English and Math placement tests
3. Check your email frequently for important class registration updates!
4. Check your student account around July 15th to see your class registration
5. Gather all of your academic materials so that you are ready to start