

Planning for Course Registration during Orientation

New students attending Juniata College will attend one of our Student Orientation and Registration (SOAR) programs in the summer or winter prior their first semester of enrollment. During Orientation students will prepare a tentative schedule and then meet with an academic advisor to finalize it. In order to prepare for academic advising and course registration, please read the following information:

Consider Your Options

Starting college is an exciting time and maybe the first time that you have the opportunity to make your own decisions about your academic goals. Please consider these questions:

1. What are your academic and career goals?
2. What areas of study would you like to pursue? This is the perfect opportunity to be an exploratory student and to consider multiple interests in future careers. Explore our course offerings in every department as you may find something of interest to you that you never previously thought you could take in college.
3. Would you like to study abroad or away from campus? Do an internship?
4. Are you a student-athlete? A student interested in participating in concert choir or one of our theatre productions? A student who plans to be heavily involved in student government or another student organization? These commitments need to be factored in as you schedule your classes.

Prepare for Course Registration

Prior to attending Orientation, develop a list of potential courses that you would like to take in your first semester. This list will be the starting point of your course registration process at Orientation. You will enter a tentative schedule with the help of peer leaders, then you will meet with an academic advisor to complete the course registration process. They will review your course selections, discuss your potential Program of Emphasis if you've identified one, guide you through our curriculum, and help you to finalize your schedule.

Program of Emphasis (POE)

Whether you have decided on an area of academic interest or whether you are exploring, you will want to choose courses that reflect your potential Program of Emphasis or the exploration of possible POEs. To review a list of our POEs, visit <https://www.juniata.edu/academics/areas-of-study.php>.

Note: Please be aware that we do not have POEs in pre-med, pre-law, or pre-engineering. These are vocational goals and not academic departments. For example, you may pursue a chemistry POE with the intention of applying to medical school, but you are not a pre-med POE.

General Education Curriculum

Along with POE courses, you will take courses that will contribute to your liberal arts education and provide opportunities to explore other disciplines:

1. Distribution Courses (We call them FISHN):
 - a. Fine Arts (F)
 - b. International (I)
 - c. Social Sciences (S)

- d. Humanities (H)
 - e. Natural Sciences (N)
2. Communication Skills: writing-based (CW) and speech-based (CS)
 3. Quantitative Skills (Q, QS, QM)

Please note that our Interdisciplinary Colloquia (IC) and Cultural Analysis (CA) courses are not recommended for first-year students. If you are a transfer student, please refer to your advisor for guidance on these courses.

Core Courses

Once you schedule your POE and other courses, you will then choose your section of College Writing Seminar and Information Access.

1. College Writing Seminar (CWS): This is a foundational, first-year writing course and a graduation requirement. All first-year, degree-seeking students will take CWS in their first semester in one of two ways.
 - Semester-only CWS (EN 110) is a four credit course designed to meet course objectives in one semester.
 - Year-long CWS (EN 108 & EN 109) is taken over two semesters with a four credit course in the fall and a three credit course in the spring. Students select year-long CWS because they desire to acquire the same writing skills as in the one-semester course but at a more moderate pace over a longer period of time. You may choose year-long CWS for yourself right away or later if you are recommended for the course after faculty review your CWS Summer Intake Essay (an assignment to be completed after Orientation).
 - If you are a transfer student with some first-year writing credits, your transcript will be reviewed to determine your College Writing Seminar equivalency.
 - If your transfer credits qualify as a direct equivalent to CWS, you've met the requirement and do not need to take CWS or a CW course. This will be noted on your transcript evaluation from the Registrar's Office.
 - If your transfer credits are not a direct equivalent, we'll ask you to either take CWS or another Juniata course with the designation of Communication Writing (CW). This will be noted on a CWS Equivalency Form that you will receive at Orientation if we were able to review your transcript prior to Orientation. Once you've passed CWS or earned a grade of B- or better in a CW course, you've earned the graduation requirement.
2. Information Access (IT 100): We call this course IA, and it's a graduation requirement that all new, full-time, and degree-seeking students must take in their first semester. If you are a first-year, transfer, or international student intending to graduate from Juniata College, please register for a section of Information Access (IT 100).

Building a Schedule

To look up courses, make selections, and see how they fit in your week, visit Class Schedules at <http://services2.juniata.edu/registrar/jcsa/index.php>.

Once you are on the Class Schedules page, you may look at course offerings by using the Department Search drop-down menu or by searching by Time, Type, Credit, or Advanced Search. Pay careful attention to courses that have pre-requisites or are closed.

To use the Scheduling Assistant tool, choose “Add Course” underneath a specific course. That course will be added to a weekly view of your selections. Please note: You are NOT registering for courses in the Scheduling Assistant. It is just a helpful tool to use to see how your courses fit into your schedule.

Other Considerations

1. Please refer to our [Course and Advising Selection webpage](#) for a full listing of tools and resources that will help you in preparing for course registration specifically and Orientation in general.
2. Be mindful of how many credits you want to take in your first semester at Juniata College. Most new students take between 12 and 15 credits. You must enroll in at least 12 credits to be considered a full-time student for financial aid and intercollegiate athletic reasons. However, you need to average 30 credits per academic year in order to meet the 120 credit graduation requirement in four years (eight semesters), so that works out to be 15 credits per semester.
3. If you are a transfer student, please make sure that Juniata College has the most recent copy of your transcripts from other institutions. This information will be necessary to determine whether you’ve already earned graduation requirements, pre-requisites, and equivalencies of our courses. There is more information about transfer credits in the “Transfer Credits and Juniata College” document located on the [Course and Advising Selection webpage](#).
4. If you are interested in continuing a World Language, which we highly recommend, please use our online assessment tool before arriving to Orientation. This will ensure that you are correctly placed in the sequence of courses. Take careful note of your results and print the results page for your records. If you are starting a world language for the first time, please choose the first course in the sequence.
 - The online assessment tool can be found here:
<http://webcape.byuhttrsc.org/nwcregister.php?acct=juniata>.
 - The password is **WLC2018**. It is case-sensitive.

Final Thoughts

To receive the most benefit from your Orientation, please remember to do the following:

1. Arrive with a list of possible courses for registration. We know this is a tentative list and will change as you gather more information at Orientation and during your advising appointment.
2. Be open and flexible. Some courses will be closed, and we’ll do our best to assist you in completing your schedule.
3. Develop a list of questions that you would like to have answered at Orientation. If you have any questions prior to Orientation, please contact QUEST at 814-641-3150 or QUEST@juniata.edu.