Columbia College Summer Advising Session

I. Introductions and Overview of Session

- Transition from high school to college
- Advising at Columbia
- Academic Integrity
- Basic requirements for a Columbia College degree
- Columbia College Core Curriculum
- Planning Your Fall Schedule and Registering for Classes
- Academic Advising Resources
- Q & A

II. Transition from high school to college

Welcome to the Columbia community!

Always remember to:

- Take care of yourself – experience freedom wisely.
- Respect the rights of others. Behave responsibly.
- Know when to ask for help, and then ask for it.
- Maintain academic honesty and integrity at all times.

Be aware of some of the ways that CC will differ from high school: attendance policies, class schedules, number of graded assignments, class size, and communication and interaction with parents. High school can be relatively formulaic: if you do a, b, and c, you will be able to get into colleges x, y, and z. There is a straightforward goal and a set of clear steps to get there. College is different. People have different goals, and there is never only one way to reach a goal. For that reason, we in the Center for Student Advising encourage students to discover and follow their passions, to explore and grow through the process.

Derrick Bell says in Ethical Ambition: “The sacrifice of passion is a kind of psychic suicide…. Your passion, whatever your calling, profession, or job, is the key to your pleasure in life, the seat of your power, and the root of your sense of agency in the world.”

Advisers can support and guide you, but you are in control of your education and experience, and ultimately responsible for your own choices and decisions both academically and socially. One of the most important things to remember is that nobody is perfect. It is a sign of wisdom and maturity to ask for help when you need it.

III. Academic Integrity

Academic dishonesty is one of the most serious offenses a student can commit at Columbia, and can be punished by permanent dismissal from the university. Speak to your instructor, speak to your adviser, but do not be tempted into an act of academic dishonesty for any reason. It isn’t worth it.

We are so glad that you are here, and we want to keep you here!
IV. Advising at Columbia

The Center for Student Advising (CSA) provides support for students throughout their undergraduate years. Students are assigned a CSA adviser in August. Your adviser is your primary point of contact for a variety of issues and questions, including the following:

- general academic questions, concerns, or difficulties
- registration questions and problems
- receiving transfer, AP/IB/GCE, or summer course credit
- changes in academic program, in consultation with faculty advisers
- premed and pre-law requirements, fellowships, graduate school, and other academic opportunities
- understanding university policies, and petitioning for exceptions to academic policy
- planning to study abroad
- progress toward and completion of requirements for the degree
- personal problems and concerns
- leaves of absence
- future life plans
- referrals to other resources on campus

Starting in August, all CSA advisers will move into a brand new space on the fourth floor of Lerner Hall. The new Center will provide space for students to meet individually with advisers as well as for student groups to congregate. Please come by to see us, and see it!

The Advising Partnership:
Productive advising is built on a true partnership in which the student and the adviser work together. The spirit of an ideal advising partnership is mutual engagement, responsiveness, and dedication. Regular advising conversations, the fundamental building blocks of the partnership, enable an adviser to serve as a resource of knowledge and a source of referrals — so that students may plan and prepare, in the broadest sense, over the course of their years at Columbia.

To make this partnership a success:

Students should:

Ø Actively engage in the advising relationship
Ø Respond to adviser outreach and be forthcoming about perceived obstacles to success
Ø Proactively research and plan ways to reach academic goals and be open to sharing these goals with their advisers
Ø Be open to researching the answers to questions with advisers in order to learn ways in which to find information on their own
Ø Act upon referrals to other sources of information and advice
Ø Let advisers know when they have not been able to find information and advice they need.

Advisers should:

Ø Be knowledgeable, responsive, and supportive
Ø Reach out to advisees, especially when an advisee seems to be struggling
Ø Inquire about students’ short- and long-term goals and ask students to consider studying abroad, fellowships, scholarships, internships, research opportunities, etc.
Ø Research the answers to questions with students as a way to show students how and where to find information on their own
Ø Refer students to other sources of advice and information and connect advisees with appropriate faculty members and departments
Ø Follow up with students on important matters in a timely way.

This is what you can expect from us, and what we will expect from you. At the end of your first year at Columbia, we will ask you to take a survey in which you evaluate your adviser and yourself in terms of these specific expectations and standards.

V. Basic requirements for a Columbia College degree

Students have 4 years to graduate (8 semesters).

Students need a minimum of **124 credits to graduate**. The average course load per semester is 15-16 credits, or **5 classes**. We often recommend taking **4 classes** in the first semester, however, as you adjust to college life.

These 124 credits are made up of:

- Columbia College Core Curriculum
- A major or concentration
- Electives

VI. Columbia College Core Curriculum

The Core has been the cornerstone of the Columbia undergraduate experience since 1919. The courses listed in this section make up Columbia’s Core Curriculum; they are discussed in much greater depth in the Academic Planning Guide for New Students and the Columbia College Bulletin.

Note: AP scores or pre-matriculation summer classes will not place students out of any of the Core requirements, except possibly language. Students with questions about AP credit or summer classes should consult the Columbia College 2010-2011 Bulletin or ask their adviser.

**Literature Humanities (HUMA C1001- C1002)**

This required full-year course, focusing on literary analysis, must be taken in the first year and can not be dropped. Students will be pre-registered for a section of Lit Hum. (4 credits each semester)

**University Writing (ENGL C1010)**

This one-semester course is required of all first-year students and can not be dropped. (3 credits)

Half of the first-year class will be pre-registered for University Writing in the fall. Students who take University Writing in the fall will take Frontiers of Science in the spring, and vice versa.
**Science Requirement**

Three semesters: Frontiers of Science (SCNC 1000), plus two other courses from the approved list. The two ‘other’ classes cannot both be quantitative (i.e. math, statistics, computer science).

Half of the first-year class will be pre-registered for Frontiers in the fall. Students who take Frontiers of Science in the fall will take University Writing in the spring.

Pre-med students must take Chemistry (and Chem. Lab, a separate course) in the first year. Any student planning to take Chemistry in the first year must take the Chemistry placement test offered during Orientation.

**Foreign Language Requirement**

This requirement is met by satisfactory completion of the 4th semester of a foreign language or the equivalent. Exemption from the language requirement may be granted on the basis of AP scores, SAT scores, or through a placement exam given by the department.

**Contemporary Civilization (COCI C1101-1102)**

Required year-long course, usually taken in the sophomore year (4 credits each semester). Contemporary Civilization focuses on important works of philosophy and political theory.

**Art Humanities (HUMA W1121)**

This requirement should be fulfilled before the end of the junior year. (3 credits)

**Music Humanities (HUMA W1123)**

This requirement should be fulfilled before the end of the junior year. (3 credits)

Note: There is a Music Humanities exemption test offered during the first week of classes. The test is offered to first-year students one time only during the first week of classes. If students do not take the test during this week, they will not be able to take it at a later date (i.e. sophomores, juniors, and seniors are not eligible to take the test). Information on the test will be included in the Academic Packet distributed during Orientation.

**Global Core Requirement**

Students must take two courses in a non-Western culture, chosen from the Global Core list (available online).

**Physical Education (PHED C1001)**

Two PE classes are required plus the swim test. Varsity athletes can register for their sport (PHED C1005) during the term in which they participate.

**VII. Planning Your First-Year Schedule and Registering for Classes**

At the end of the Columbia College section of the Planning Guide, there is a tear-out sheet that you should complete before arriving on campus for Orientation. When you first meet with your CSA adviser, your answers
on that sheet will provide a springboard for further conversation and exploration. We also would like you to use that sheet as a means to start thinking about courses for the fall term and about your Columbia career in general.

Certain courses must be completed in the first year: Literature Humanities, University Writing, and Frontiers of Science. We recommend making good progress through the Core in your first and second years, but some courses can be completed in the junior and senior years.

It is important for students who are undecided about a major to take electives in the first and second years that may introduce them to their future major field of study. Explore different departments by taking at least one elective each semester. Look at introductory level courses (1000-2000 level) using the online Columbia College Bulletin, which has course descriptions. Don’t just look at departments and majors that are already familiar, or that you know you are interested in – explore and read about the whole variety of disciplines and courses available.

When choosing courses to round out your fall schedule, here are some things to consider:

- If you have not placed out of the language requirement, you should begin or continue a language in your first year.

  Note: Students should not worry too much about correct placement level in either language or math. Changes in level can easily be made in the first 2 weeks of school if warranted.

- If you are interested in going to medical school (being pre-med), you should take chemistry and chemistry lab in the first year, as well as calculus.

- If you are interested in being a science major, you should begin planning your schedule early, consulting the Columbia College Bulletin and the departmental website.

  Chemistry and biology majors are required to take chemistry during their first year. Astronomy, mathematics, physics, and statistics majors should take calculus during their first year. Chemistry, biochemistry, and physics majors are required to take physics in their first year.

- If you have a tentative interest in Math or Economics, you should take calculus in your first year.

- Students with no idea of a major or area of interest should explore different departments by taking at least one elective each semester.

**Fall Registration**

First-year students will be able to register using Student Services Online (SSOL) on the **Friday of Orientation week**. You will receive an Academic Packet during Orientation check-in which will contain your Columbia College Bulletin and your pre-registered schedule (listing Literature Humanities and either University Writing or Frontiers of Science). In the meantime, you can consult the Bulletin online at [www.college.columbia.edu/bulletin](http://www.college.columbia.edu/bulletin)

**VIII. Advising Resources**

**Before Orientation:**

- The Bulletin contains departmental contact information, course descriptions, and lists requirements for the major or concentration:  [www.college.columbia.edu/bulletin](http://www.college.columbia.edu/bulletin)
The Center for Student Advising website: www.studentaffairs.columbia.edu/csa/
Academic Planning Guide for New Students
Your Summer Advising Session facilitator, available via email or phone.

**During Orientation:**

- Meet with your CSA adviser to discuss your fall schedule and course selection. You will be notified of your adviser’s name and contact information in early August.
- An information session will be held for pre-med students.
- Language placement exams will be given.
- Chemistry, Physics, and Math placement exams will be given. Students interested in taking an advanced level of Physics or Math, or any level of Chemistry, must attend the information sessions given prior to the exams.
- Attend the Academic Resources Fair, which is an excellent opportunity to meet faculty members and learn more about Columbia’s academic departments.
- More group information sessions will be held (like this one!) if you feel like you need a refresher.

**After Orientation:**

- Your CSA adviser
- Tutoring; Math, Chemistry, Statistics, Frontiers, and Physics Help Rooms; the Writing Center
- Counseling Services and Academic Success Programs will offer workshops on time management, study skills, and a variety of first-year issues
- The CSA Blog: http://columbiaadvising.wordpress.com/
- Faculty*

One of the most important ways in which you can truly benefit from your college education is by getting to know faculty members. Columbia faculty members are world-renowned experts in their fields and you have an amazing opportunity to learn from them. As Richard Light writes in *Making the Most of College: Students Speak Their Minds*, you should strive to get to know at least two faculty members per year who could write you a solid letter of recommendation. If you are intimidated or simply unsure about how to go about connecting with faculty, speak with your CSA adviser.

**IX. Q & A**