

Strategies for Creating a Draft Academic Schedule

Welcome to Hendrix! Your big assignment before coming to campus is to **create a draft schedule** of 3-4 courses for each semester before you meet with your advisor in August. While your advisor will discuss your choices with you, you need to bring your ideas to the meeting.

This is a logic puzzle with iterative steps. Do not expect to find a good schedule on the first pass.

Notes:

- All first year students will find *TEC* and *Explorations* sections in their schedule. These courses cannot be moved unless the courses interfere with your ability to graduate in four years (extremely rare).
- **Placement Records:** These are found on your Campus Web and under Academics. These include course suggestions for mathematics, English and foreign language. While the page exists now, it will populate during August. *Heed these recommendations!* Remember: where you start does not decide how far you can go.

Tools: (*These are available under Academic Resources on CampusWeb.*)

- **Guide to Academic Planning** - describes majors and identifies the introductory courses in each department/major
- **Hendrix College Catalog** – describes every major (heavy reading) but this is *the* place to check for the rules
- **On-Line Course Schedule** – what is offered this year and in each semester
- **Services for Students with Disabilities**
- **Student Instruction Manual for On-Line Pre-Registration:** mechanics of placing courses onto your draft schedule
- **Daily Course Schedule** – the layout of the academic week

Strategy:

I. Start by finding some courses related to your **primary** interests or a potential major:

A. Read the related sections in the **Guide to Academic Planning** (aka the *Guide*)

Choose a couple of courses that seem appropriate for your level of preparation (typically based on your MATH and ENGL ACT scores). The *Guide* gives the best advice on course numbers and preparation. In your first year, plan on taking 100- and 200-level courses unless the *Guide* suggests otherwise. If you think you should place higher level courses, talk to your advisor.

B. Check online the **Course Schedule** for times and availability for each semester. There is a link on the Academic Resources page.

C. **Finish by putting your desired course into your CampusWeb schedule** (see the Student Instruction Manual for On-Line Pre-Registration on the Academic Resources page).

Repeat the STEPS A-C (above) after each suggestion below.

II. **Expand your horizons** with some courses related to your interests. It is easy to use your interests to drive the General Academic Requirements: Learning Domains and Capacities. Find a course or two with an Academic Requirement Code (on-line course schedule has these). Use the *Guide* to find the right level and repeat steps in I.

- Watch for time conflicts. [Read *Guide* sections; Find a course online, Put it in your schedule]

III. **Balance your schedule with:**

- An English or Math course to sharpen your skills. Check your academic placements.
- A Foreign Language sequence:

IV. **Finally, consider adding a physical activity credit.** This is NOT an academic course, but a co-curricular requirement. You need two for graduation and it is smart to get one done in your first two years.

**Remember this is a DRAFT Schedule.
You and your advisor will work on the final details.**