

Guide to the Course Preference Form

Your first semester at Sewanee will be an opportunity for growth and discovery. You'll take an active part in identifying courses of particular interest to you, and you should expect to pick a range of courses: ones that are familiar and you feel confident about; ones that are brand-new to you and seem intriguing; ones that you expect to be a challenge (but you're ready for a challenge!); ones that might lead to a major; ones that just sound fascinating!

Sewanee students take an active role in their education, and this worksheet will help give you the tools and guidance to start you on your educational journey. Sewanee students take the time to do research and prepare diligently, and this worksheet will prompt you toward intentional and informed consideration of your preferred courses for the first semester.

Most of all, this guide will help you claim agency and responsibility for your education. Our faculty guides are ready to assist you with your questions (you can email them at summeradvising@sewanee.edu) but in the end, you're the one who will complete and submit the form; after all, it's your education.

In the fall semester, you will have a schedule of exactly four (4) courses—three from the courses chosen on this form and one from your FYE Encounter preferences.

In order for the University to build a schedule for your fall semester, we need to know more about your academic interests. Your selections below will generate a list of ten (10) courses and three (3) language options for a total of thirteen (13) selections. Your Fall semester will be a blend of entry level courses and general education requirements. Feel free to browse Sewanee's [General Education Requirements here](#).

Don't worry about any AP, IB, Cambridge or Dual Enrollment courses in this form. Those courses and potential credit will be addressed when you meet with an advisor during orientation. ([See here for how Sewanee manages AP, IB, and other "pre-Sewanee" credits.](#))

The Course Preference Form has 5 sections:

1. Encounter Courses (displaying your previous selections for your benefit—you won't change these)
2. Pre-Professional Programs (applicable for some students)
3. Potential Majors and Minors
4. Electives and Other Courses that Interest You
5. Languages

IMPORTANT: You will be ranking your courses in order of priority 1-10 with 1 being your highest priority. While your first choices are the courses you are most likely to be placed in, your later choices should still be carefully considered as you may be placed in them as well.

Use the **Recommended Courses by Area of Interest** grid below to see which courses align with particular academic pathways. [Note: you can see the same list of majors and courses in the [online Academic Guide](#).] We encourage you to use the grid for your first 4 selections.

GUIDANCE:

What are your areas of academic interest? You can think about them in different ways:

- *What excites you?*
- *What do you want to learn more about?*
- *What do you see yourself doing in 5-10 years?*
- *What's the thing you enjoy doing so much that you'll spend hours on it?*
- *What's the "big question" you want to tackle in life?*

Answering these questions may well take the next four years—but we do need a starting point for this process. For practical reasons, in the sections below we are going to talk about these “areas of academic interest” as potential majors, but that’s just to get the process going. You’re not declaring a major—you’re not limiting yourself. Our curriculum is broad and flexible enough for you change directions!

Pay attention to the grid with the recommended course(s) for each academic area—be sure to select those courses on your form to ensure that you are enrolled in courses that support your interests! You can preview them in the [online Academic Guide](#).

Find course descriptions on the Registrar's website [here](#). To quickly find a first-year course, filter by subject and then scan the page for the course name and number that matches the class you are considering.

Section I: Encounter Courses

You’ll see a list of the Encounter courses you previously ranked. You won’t be able to change them but can use the information to help you select your other courses. Your list of Encounter courses will be factored into your 4 fall semester courses; one of these courses will be on your schedule!

Section II: Pre-Professional Programs

Several of Sewanee’s pre-professional programs have highly structured pathways. If you are committed to pursuing one of the listed programs, please indicate that below. Indication of one of these programs will cause certain courses to be populated in your list of “Course of interest” below. You can select only one pre-professional program. You may of course change your mind later in your academic career.

- I am not pursuing pre-health or pre-engineering.

Pre-health fields:

- Pre-Medical: *will auto-populate* CHEM 121/151 [by placement], BIOL 133
- Pre-Dentistry: *will auto-populate* CHEM 121/151 [by placement], BIOL 133
- Pre-Physical Therapy: *will auto-populate* CHEM 121/151 [by placement], BIOL 133

- Pre-Physician Assistant: *will auto-populate* CHEM 121/151 [by placement], BIOL 133
- Pre-Veterinary: *will auto-populate* CHEM 121/151 [by placement], BIOL 133
- Pre-Nursing: *will auto-populate* CHEM 121/151 [by placement], BIOL 180
- Pre-Pharmacy: *will auto-populate* CHEM 121/151 [by placement], BIOL 133
- Pre-Public Health: *will auto-populate* CHEM 121/151 [by placement], BIOL 180

3/2 program in engineering:

- Chemical Engineering: *will auto-populate* CHEM 121/151 [by placement] and MATH 101/102/207 [by placement]
- Software Engineering: *will auto-populate* CSCI 157 and MATH 101/102/207 [by placement]
- Physical Engineering (including Mechanical, Electrical, Civil and Systems Engineering): *will auto-populate* MATH 101/102/207 [by placement] and PHYS 103

GUIDANCE:

Not all students will be pursuing either pre-health or a pre-engineering program (typically only 25% of students), so most students will indicate "I am not pursuing pre-health or pre-engineering." We include that response to be sure everyone has thought about the question.

For either pre-health or pre-engineering: click on the links to read more about the programs. The 3/2 programs (in which the student spends three years at Sewanee completing all Gen Ed and major requirements, then two years at the engineering school) require close attention to courses, and students need to review the courses carefully. Students pursuing a 3/2 program need to select a major in the discipline (Chemistry, Computer Science, Mathematics, or Physics). However, students interested in pre-health are *not* limited to Biology, Chemistry, or Biochemistry; many pre-health students major in a different area and, with the assistance of the pre-health advisors, schedule their pre-health courses as a complement to their major courses.

NOTE: This worksheet does not have the same functionality as the form itself, so you'll need to "pencil in" the courses as noted.

Section III: Potential Majors and Minors

You are not declaring a major here. At Sewanee, students typically declare in their fourth semester. This is simply a starting point to explore your interests as you begin to find your direction. You can change your mind along the way.

So that we can reference this with the rest of your answers on this form, please let us know which of the following majors appeals to you most. You are not deciding a major or a minor here. This will help us steer your fall semester courses in the right direction.

Potential Future Major 1 (required): *select from a pull-down menu*

Potential Future Major 2 (optional): *select from a pull-down menu*

Potential Future Minor (optional): *select from a pull-down menu*

Your first 4 course choices below will relate to your *potential* major(s) and/or minor(s) at Sewanee.

IMPORTANT: Take this process seriously. The courses that you rank on this form will directly influence your first semester schedule. We'll create your schedule with your rankings in mind. Use the **Recommended Courses by Area of Interest** grid above to help you make your selections.

Don't forget, you can find course descriptions on the Registrar's website [here](#).

Do not duplicate your choices: *Having duplicate entries on your form will delay its review and processing!*

First choice: *select from a pull-down menu; for students in one of the pre-professional programs above, this choice will already be filled*

Second choice: *select from a pull-down menu; for students in one of the pre-professional programs above, this choice will already be filled*

Third choice: *select from a pull-down menu*

Fourth choice: *select from a pull-down menu*

No Duplicates: *I confirm that none of my selections above are duplicates.*

GUIDANCE:

So what is a *major*? A major is an organized set of classes within an area of intellectual study. Some majors include courses within one academic discipline; some require a few courses from outside the discipline; some are very intentionally interdisciplinary and make connections across the traditional academic areas.

Minors typically involve about half the coursework of a major with greater flexibility in the courses that apply.

The Academic Guide has information and notes recommended first courses for all our majors; you can also see a [list of majors and minors here](#).

While a major certainly gives you mastery over a body of academic material, a major does not define or limit you. Nor does a major determine a career. Your major is part of your broader education and will be supplemented by other classes you choose to take and the activities you choose to engage in beyond the classroom. Together, the entirety of your academic efforts and your co- and extra-curricular activities prepare you for a fulfilling life beyond college. You'll create your very own, very personal, *Sewanee experience*.

For practical reasons, however, we need you to indicate at least one potential major, but that's just to get this registration process going. You're not declaring a major—you're not limiting yourself. Our curriculum is broad and flexible enough for you change directions!

On the table of academic areas, you'll see that each area has a particular course that is recommended for students with this interest. In some cases, you'll have options; for example, a student interested in Anthropology will have a choice of Anthropology 104, 106, or 109 (different perspectives on Anthropology); for Art, students will choose among Art 103, 104, or

105 (different artistic media). **It is imperative that you include at least one of these courses in your list of courses of interest.** If you can't decide, you can list a second one in this section and even another option in the next step.

Add your course(s) to the list of "Courses of Interest"—but list each course only once. If you indicated "pre-engineering / chemical engineering," and then picked Chemistry as an area of study, don't list "CHEM 121/151" twice!

Section IV: Electives and Other Courses that Interest You

Now that you've listed your top preferences that could relate to your major area of interest, use the following dropdowns to share six more classes that appeal to you. These do not have to relate towards a major or minor that you are considering.

At the end of this section, you should have a total of 10 unique courses selected in order of preference. The first choice you listed above is the course you are most likely to have in your fall schedule, while the tenth course you list will be the course you are least likely to have in your fall schedule (but it could still end up on your schedule, so choose courses that truly interest you). [Note: [see this page for a list of courses](#), by category, to help you identify your choices.]

Fifth choice: *select from a pull-down menu*

Sixth choice: *select from a pull-down menu*

Seventh choice: *select from a pull-down menu*

Eighth choice: *select from a pull-down menu*

Ninth choice: *select from a pull-down menu*

Tenth choice: *select from a pull-down menu*

No Duplicates: *I confirm that none of my selections above are duplicates.*

GUIDANCE:

You've got four courses from your areas of academic interest above; how to populate the rest?

- You may be able to list additional options based on your area of academic interest. For example, if you're interested in Anthropology, you might list ANTH 104 first (as it's the course of greatest interest)—but if ANTH 106 also looks inviting, you can add it, too.
- Enjoy the "education buffet": select courses from across the curriculum. Academic disciplines tend to fall into broad divisions (Humanities, Fine Arts, Social Science, Sciences, Math and Computer Science) or are interdisciplinary. [Use the categories listed here](#) to explore the range of divisions and try to get at least one from each broad division. Such will broaden your academic experiences—and also help you fulfill General Education requirements. (And note that you'll identify a foreign language of interest in the next section.) Be diverse and do **NOT** include more than three courses from any one discipline.

- Speaking of General Education, Sewanee has identified essential "ways of thinking" and intellectual skills that we want all our students to develop. We frame these expectations as our [General Education Curriculum](#). Students are expected to complete these requirements by the end of their junior year. However, because nearly all courses available to incoming first-year students satisfy a requirement, you don't need to focus on selecting courses based on fulfilling Gen Ed: you will end up fulfilling several Gen Ed requirements your first semester by default!
- Practical notes:
 - Be intentional in your selections: any course you include could be on your final schedule.
 - You need to list the courses in your order of preference; the registration process will start at the top of your list and work down!
 - Students interested in introductory Chemistry and Mathematics will be placed, so the options read "CHEM 121/151 by placement" and "MATH 101/102/207 by placement."
 - While you must not duplicate courses on this list, you can list a course that's also on your Encounter list, as we will offer both "regular" and "Encounter" sections of BIOL 133, CSCI 157, ECON 120, SPAN 299, and WRIT 206.

Section V: Languages

Most Sewanee students begin the study of a language in their first semester as part of the general education requirements. This ensures increased options for future study abroad, flexibility in developing skill sets, and maximum opportunities for future scholarships, fellowships, graduate study, and careers, often boosted by familiarity with another language.

Sewanee gives you the opportunity to [study languages](#) that you may not have had the chance to study in high school, broadening your options for future study abroad, travel, and job opportunities. When determining which language or languages to take while at Sewanee, consider that some of our offered languages are considered "critical" by the US Government and thus yield both [scholarships](#) and fellowships for study abroad, as well as preference in hiring for government positions.

Our faculty evaluated your earlier language placement exam and recommended the level you'll begin studying (100-level, 200-level, or 300-level). If your first-choice language placement course is full or not offered in your first semester, you may be placed into your second or third language choice.

Please share up to three language choices:

First choice: *select from a pull-down menu of all 8 of the languages taught at Sewanee, with your placement noted for each*

Second choice: *select from a pull-down menu of all 8 of the languages taught at Sewanee, with your placement noted for each*

Third choice: *select from a pull-down menu of all 8 of the languages taught at Sewanee, with your placement noted for each*

GUIDANCE:

Sewanee requires students to study a foreign language through the third semester, and then take one more language or cultural studies class. (This is the “G6” requirement for General Education.) The progression for a student who has never studied a particular language is to take three language courses—numbered 103, 104, and 203—over three semesters. For the “one more” course, students can choose to take a fourth semester of the language (course numbering varies in the different languages) or a designated and approved cultural studies class associated with that language (see [lists in the Catalog](#)) The language placement test you took in the enrollment process will indicate your starting level (103, 104, 203, or higher).

Because the language requirement can take a full four semesters to complete, we make every effort to place students in a language in their first semester. However, students placed in higher level courses may begin their language study later.

We thus need you to indicate **three** different languages of interest—you will rank these, and you should know that it’s possible you’ll be placed in your second or third option.

Some students may qualify for an academic accommodation that allows for a four-courses substitution in fulfilling G6. Students with questions about accommodations should contact [Student Accessibility Services](#); if accommodations are approved, that office will communicate with the Office of Advising.

Final Check: Please take a moment to review your selections above, then check this box to submit your Course Preference Form. Remember, your selections on this form will directly influence your fall semester course schedule.

- I’m ready to submit my Course Preference Form

GUIDANCE:

Be patient and take one last look at your selections! Would you be OK being placed in *any* of the classes you selected?

Be sure you haven’t duplicated any courses in your total list of 13 courses. *Having duplicate entries on your form will delay its review and processing!*