

### *Essential Tips for the Course Selection Process*

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!

It is true that you'll need to meet the General Education requirements. And it's also true that nearly every course intended for incoming students will fulfill at least one GE requirement. Moreover, our GE program offers great flexibility and you'll be able to play to your strengths. So don't let "General Education" be the determining factor in your selection process: instead, focus on your interests!

#### **Thoughtful preparation is essential.**

- First, Review our [Frequently Asked Questions](#).
- Then look over all the available courses for incoming [First-Year Students](#) or [Transfer Students](#). Notice the range and scope of opportunities in the broad categories: Humanities, Fine Arts, Social Sciences, Sciences, Math & Computer Science, Foreign Languages, and Interdisciplinary Programs.
- And then make a list of twelve different courses from the First Year Course Listings, as per the guidelines:
  - (4) courses should relate to your areas of academic interest (including a potential major--but know that all incoming students are considered "pre-major": you'll get to explore before committing!). *I can readily see myself studying in these areas—these are familiar and exciting to me.*
  - (4) courses should be in new and intriguing disciplines you want to explore. *This topic really intrigues me; I'd like to explore it!*
  - (4) additional courses that you find interesting, including courses that seem challenging--but you're up for the challenge! *Without a doubt, I'm interested in this course and want to study it—and I may have to dedicate more time to it.*
- N.B.: if you placed into the highest level of a language (above 300), you can identify a course(s) that you'd prefer to take. Most students, however, will be placed into a specific course by the respective language program.
- Transfer students, you will do the same process, though as you might be starting with a semester or more of college credit, you should look at the [full range of course offerings](#) to develop your list. Note that you will still request courses (e.g. ANTH 106), not specific sections (e.g. ANTH 106, section A).

As you begin this process, you might seek to identify 6-8 in each category. You may find that a course might fit in two categories—that means you’re really interested in it! Then you can narrow down and sort your choices. You are not asked to rank your choices on the Course Selection Form; the Guides will look at all twelve of your preferences equally in developing your schedule. So again, be sure all courses are of interest to you!

Be willing to diversify. Your 12 courses should come from across the curriculum—from several, even all, of those broad academic divisions (Humanities, Fine Arts, etc.). Don’t narrow your options! Having a broad range will give you a richer academic experience, expose you to more ideas, and certainly assist in fulfilling GE expectations while potentially moving you toward a major.

You can read about individual courses in the Catalog—each general section (Humanities, Fine Arts, etc.) includes links to the discipline’s web page in the College Catalog. **Pay particular attention** to courses that have the “AP/IB” notice: they have a pre-requisite, and if you end up not meeting that pre-requisite, then your enrollment will be compromised. For your own benefit, limit yourself to no more than two courses with such pre-requisites.

As you finalize your list of 12 courses, be mindful of the following:

- Be sure not to duplicate any selections on your Course Selection Form—don’t list the same course more than once. Doing so will delay the review of your form.
- Don’t include a language course **unless** you placed into the highest level and have an option. For almost all students, the language course will be determined by the department, and the Guides will seek to place every student into the appropriate course.
- The respective department also determines placements in Calculus and Chemistry, so if you’re interested in either (or both), you’ll be prompted to enter the discipline but not a specific course number (e.g. “MATH 101 / 102 / 207,” rather than three separate entries).
- Because AP/IB scores can be slow to come in and verify, please do not include more than two courses with such requirements among your 12.
- This process focuses on our regular academic courses that will earn four hours of credit, and your schedule will have four courses for 16 credit hours. In August, when you’re on campus, you’ll have occasion to add courses that carry fewer than 4 hours, like applied music lessons and Physical Education courses (up to a maximum of 19 credit hours).
- And it bears repeating: be sure not to duplicate any selections on your Course Selection Form—don’t list the same course more than once. Doing so will delay the review of your form.