Planning Your Schedule and Registering

It normally takes four years, or eight semesters, for arts and sciences students to complete the 32 courses required to graduate. The expectation is for students to complete four full academic courses, or the equivalent, per semester.

It generally takes five years, or 10 semesters, for double-degree students to earn the 214 credits required to graduate. Double-degree students may carry a maximum of 26 credits and must average between 21 and 22 credits per semester to fulfill their graduation requirements on time.

In planning your course schedule, keep in mind that students spend roughly two hours outside class preparing for each hour in class. However, time in class and time you will need to complete assignments varies among fields.

First-year students in the College of Arts and Sciences and first-year students in the Double Degree Program are strongly encouraged to register for a first-year seminar. Find detailed information about the First-Year Seminar Program at new.oberlin.edu/arts-and-sciences/fysp/.

Remember that you will likely have other obligations, so don’t overload yourself. For example, work-study jobs often take 10 hours per week. Athletics and other activities will also place demands on your time. Try to plan a schedule of four courses that allows you to pursue your educational goals and do your best work, but also leaves time for you to sleep enough, eat well, and enjoy your friends.

If you are sure of your intended major, review the information in the Course Catalog about fulfilling the major requirements and begin to construct your course schedule accordingly. Even if you are sure of your intended major, we recommend that you take only one course in a single department during your first semester.

If you are unsure about your choice of major—as many students are when they begin college—read through the department offerings in the online Course Catalog to find course options that interest you. Try to arrange a first-semester schedule that will allow you to sample courses in a range of departments.

Avoid scheduling conflicts and select alternatives in case your primary choices are not available when you register. You will need to bring your planned schedule and alternative course selections to the meeting with your advisor.

The fall semester final exam period is provided on the Academic Calendar; the detailed schedule will be posted on the Registrar’s website before the beginning of the fall semester.

Once your class schedule is finalized, consult the final exam schedule before making travel plans. If you must make travel plans before your schedule is finalized, plan to travel the day after the last day of the exam period. Travel schedules are not considered a permissible reason to change a final exam time.

Bachelor of Arts Requirements

The Course Catalog, catalog.oberlin.edu, contains detailed information about Oberlin’s curriculum, degree requirements, and academic policies. What follows below is only a summary of requirements; please read the text in the catalog for complete details.

The Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree is conferred upon students who have successfully completed the following requirements:

- Minimum course requirement
- A major
- Three full winter-term projects
- General course requirements
- A minimum GPA of 1.67
- Residence requirement

The following general requirements—Curriculum Exploration, Writing, Quantitative and
Formal Reasoning, and Cultural Diversity—must be satisfied with courses successfully completed at Oberlin College, with exceptions for transfer students (those who matriculate at another institution and then transfer to Oberlin College) as detailed in the Course Catalog. Individual courses may be counted simultaneously toward more than one general course requirement providing they carry the appropriate divisional attributes and or designations.

Double-Degree Requirements
For their BA degree, double-degree students must complete the BA degree requirements with the following exceptions:

- double-degree students must complete a total of 214 credits
- double-degree students must complete 88 non-music, liberal arts credits

Transfer of Credit Limits
Refer to the Office of the Registrar website, new.oberlin.edu/office/registrar/ for the transfer of credit policy and regulations, including specific limits regarding the transfer of:

- pre-matriculation credit
- post-matriculation credit

Advanced Placement and Placement Exams
Each academic department sets its own policy for granting advanced placement (AP) credit for its courses. Please consult the Course Catalog for information about each department. To view a chart summarizing how programs at Oberlin award credit for AP and IB scores, go to new.oberlin.edu/office/registrar/ap-ib-credit/chart.dot.

Language placement exams for Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Russian, and Spanish are available for students to take online before their arrival for Orientation. Visit languages.oberlin.edu/placement for detailed information.

Additional information about advanced placement and placement exams can be found on the following page of the New Students Website, new.oberlin.edu/new-students/academic-planning/college-placement.dot. The dates and times of on campus placement exams will be published in the orientation schedule. You will receive a printed copy of the orientation schedule when you arrive on campus.

Music Opportunities for Arts and Sciences Students
Lessons and Ensembles: Arts and sciences students interested in taking private lessons for credit may audition during Orientation or the first week of classes. Sign-up sheets and instructions are posted on the Conservatory Associate Deans’ website, www.oberlin.edu/condean and on the Applied Studies bulletin board outside of room 113 in Bibbins Hall. Students are placed with faculty or student teachers as availability allows. Please note that space is often limited. Students approved for secondary study can register for the lessons during the add/drop period. Students not approved for lessons for credit may study privately with a student teacher for a nominal fee.

Arts and sciences students may audition for most conservatory large ensembles. Large ensemble auditions take place during Orientation and the first week of classes.
**Conservatory of Music Classes:** Two introductory music history courses are offered each year specifically for arts and sciences students: CMUS 103, Introduction to Musics of the World and CMUS 100, Introduction to Western Art Music. These courses require no prior musical training. MHST 101, Introduction to the History and Literature of Music, accepts arts and sciences students with advanced musical preparation. Students interested in the musical studies major in the College of Arts and Sciences are encouraged to take MHST 101.

Arts and sciences students may also take music theory and aural skills classes as space is available. To be placed into music theory and or aural skills, students must take a placement test before arriving on campus. The test is available on the Conservatory Associate Deans’ website or at www.oberlin.edu/octet/PlacementExam/MusicTheory. Students interested in preparing for the theory test are referred to *Scales, Intervals, Keys, Triads, Rhythm, and Meter*, a workbook by John Clough (Norton, ISBN 0-393-97369-7). Aural skills placement tests are given during Orientation. Space in music theory and aural skills classes is limited and priority is given to conservatory majors. Arts and sciences students may find that they have to wait a semester or two before being placed into one of these classes.

For more information, visit the Music Opportunities for Arts and Science Students webpage on the website for the Conservatory Associate Deans at www.oberlin.edu/condean.

**Contact the Office**
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