TRANSFER STUDENTS
PLANNING YOUR FIRST QUARTER CLASSES

We want to provide some suggestions about the types of courses you should plan on taking this quarter. Before completing your enrollment worksheet and enrolling in courses through the SISWEB Registration system, you should review course descriptions, major requirements and College requirements in the UC Davis General Catalog (available online at http://registrar.ucdavis.edu/UCDWebCatalog). The Class Schedule and Registration Guide (also available online at http://registrar.ucdavis.edu/csrg) tells you which courses are being offered each quarter along with their time and location.

As you choose your courses, create a varied course schedule. Take a mixture of lower division (numbers 1-99) and upper division (numbers 100-199) courses. Choose courses in your major and in other areas of interest to you. Take advantage of the richness of offerings at the University. Consider the following categories of courses as you make your decisions:

1. Courses for your major

   If you know which major you want to pursue, you can use the description of the major requirements in the General Catalog as a guide to courses you might choose. Major descriptions will list preparatory subject matter and prerequisites at the lower division level as well as upper division requirements. If you come from a two-year college, you will not have completed any upper division work. You should create a checklist of the lower division course requirements, indicating those you believe you have completed. By using the course articulation information at the Project ASSIST Website (www.assist.org) or comparing course descriptions, you should be able to determine fairly accurately whether or not the courses are the same. If you think you've had a course, you probably have.

   If you have not completed lower division courses required as preparatory subject matter in your major, then enrolling in these courses should be a high priority. Also consider taking one upper division course in your major for which you have the stated prerequisites (courses you must have completed before enrolling).

   A common mistake that many transfer students make is to be overly ambitious in enrolling in major courses during their first quarter. We suggest that you take no more than two courses in the major your first quarter with the remainder of your schedule consisting of courses drawn from the areas outlined below.

2. Courses in other areas of interest

   Choose courses representing topic areas that are of particular importance to you as a citizen of the world ... courses in cultural diversity, in world peace, in environmental issues. Select from areas that are important to you for your education in the creative and performing arts ... courses in art, in drama and literature, in music appreciation. Choose courses that will contribute to your scientific literacy. Select courses that will offer valuable preparation for career choices.

3. Upper division English Composition

   Students who have completed 70 or more quarter units are encouraged to take the Upper Division Composition examination during their first quarter of residence. Information on this exam, including dates, time, and location can be obtained from the University Writing Program office or on-line at http://writing program.ucdavis.edu/compexam. If you do not pass the exam you can also satisfy the upper division portion of the requirement by passing (with a grade of C- [or Pass] or better) University Writing Program (UWP) 101, 102A-G, or 104A-F once you have completed 84 quarter units. (The UWP 102 courses are offered as adjunct writing courses for classes in other disciplines as described in the Class Schedule and Registration Guide.)
4. **Courses in foreign language**

Foreign language course work is required for all students who plan to complete a Bachelor of Arts degree. These students must complete the 15 unit level in a single language, the equivalent of course 3 in most languages. If you are continuing in a language you are studying, use the number of units you have completed as a guideline to your appropriate entry level into UC Davis courses. (If you have been certified as completing IGETC by your previous college, the foreign language requirement has been satisfied.)

**How many courses should you take your first quarter?**

We typically recommend that your first quarter schedule consist of courses totaling about 15 units. To make expected progress toward obtaining your baccalaureate degree you must average 15 units per quarter, so it is important that you plan on completing at least 45 units by the end of the year, and an additional 45 units at the end of each subsequent year.

The faculty will expect you to spend two hours in out-of-class preparation for every hour that you spend in class. For example, a 15 unit course load implies 45 hours of work on your part every week (15 hours in class and 30 hours outside of class). You should consider this workload as you plan your first quarter.

Registration is done in a series of “passes”, each allowing you to enroll in progressively more courses. You should enroll in as many of your desired courses as possible each pass until you reach the number of units you want to take. Don’t wait; the courses you want most may be full later! You can also adjust your schedule during the first 10 days of the quarter.

**Academic Advising**

Advising at UC Davis takes place on two levels, in your major department and at the College Deans’ Office. You should plan to meet with an adviser in your major department very early in the quarter. By reviewing your transfer work, the departmental adviser will be able to tell you where you stand with respect to major requirements and to advise you about your plans in the major. Just prior to the beginning of enrollment for your second quarter, you should drop by your major department to pick up the transfer evaluation provided by the Deans’ Office. This evaluation will inform you how your transfer work will apply to your University and College requirements at UC Davis.

We hope this information is helpful as you begin to plan for your academic life at UC Davis. Within the broad context of a liberal education, we encourage you to think carefully about what is important to you. The University, the College of Letters and Science, and your major department have established requirements for graduation, but you have many choices of ways to meet those requirements. You’ll seldom be told exactly what to take. More frequently, your advisers will suggest a range of courses from which you can choose.

The Dean’s Assembly for new students who did not attend the Orientation Program during the summer will be held at the beginning of the quarter. You should consult the “Orientation” section of the Class Schedule and Registration Guide for the exact date, time and location. We look forward to meeting you at the Assembly.

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