Academic and Curricular Requirements for a First-Year Student

Useful and Necessary Information for Entering Students at Dartmouth College

2015-2016
To Graduate...

A Dartmouth student must

... accrue 35 credits

... complete the first-year requirements

... complete the language requirement

... complete distributive and world culture requirements

... complete the requirements of a major

... pass a swim test and 3 PE credits (these do not count towards the 35 credits needed for graduation)
The 35 Credits

- Each course = 1 credit
- If you take 3 courses a term for twelve terms, you will accumulate 36 credits
  (...leaving you one credit to spare)

- You can transfer a maximum of four credits back to Dartmouth during your four years
First-Year Requirements

There are two:

- Your Writing class (either Writing 5 or the Writing 2-3 Sequence)
- A First-Year Seminar

- Writing courses and First-Year Seminars are small (16 maximum), writing-intensive courses taught on particular topics.
- The Writing courses are taught out of the Institute for Writing and Rhetoric.
- First-year Seminars are taught in all departments
Writing

• Can be fulfilled either through the successful completion of Writing 5 (in 1 term, either Fall or winter) or the Writing 2-3 Sequence (in two terms, Fall and Winter)

• Writing courses are theme-based and you should consider both theme and schedule when electing course choices.

• First-year students are assigned the term (either Fall or Winter) in which they will begin their writing course before they arrive on campus
The First-Year Seminar

- A student takes their First-Year seminar *in the term immediately following* their completion of the Writing Course.
- A student taking the Writing 2-3 Sequence takes the Seminar in the Spring term.
- A student assigned a Fall Writing 5 takes the seminar in the Winter. A student assigned a Winter Writing 5 takes the seminar in the Spring term.
Language Requirement

• You must complete the language requirement by the end of your 7th term on campus (that is, during your junior year).

• The language requirement is completion through level 3 of a language. Thus...
  – Spanish 1, Spanish 2, and Spanish 3
  – Chinese 1, Chinese 2, and Chinese 3, and so forth...
  – Some languages (Greek, Latin, Portuguese) can be done in two terms.

• You may choose to continue in a language you have already studied. In which case, your placement record will tell you at what level you begin.
  – A “placement” does not mean you are obligated to take that course; it simply indicates the level at which you begin if you were to take that course.

• You may wish to begin a new language

• Many students complete their language requirement abroad on an LSA (Language Study Abroad – on which, more below). You should consider this possibility.
Distributive and World culture Requirements

Dartmouth has two separate types of general curricular requirements:

1) Distributive requirements
2) World Culture requirements
Distributive Requirements

1. Art: creation, performance, history or criticism; (ART)
2. Literature: the history, criticism or theory of texts; (LIT)
3. Systems and Traditions of Thought, Meaning and Value; (TMV)
4. International or comparative study; (INT)
5. Social analysis (two courses); (SOC)
6. Quantitative or deductive science; (QDS)
7. Natural and physical science (two courses); without/with lab; (SCI/SLA)
8. Technology or applied science; without/with lab; (TAS/TLA)

At least one of the science courses in categories 7 or 8 must have a laboratory, experimental or field component (LAB).
World Culture

- 1. Western Cultures (W)
- 2. Non-Western Cultures (NW)
- 3. Culture and Identity (CI)

Note that:
- A course *can* fulfill both a distributive requirement and a world culture requirement
On Distribs and WC, Note that:

- You can fulfill *all* the Distributive and World Culture Requirements with 10 courses
- A single course *cannot* fulfill more than one distributive requirement
- Distributives *cannot* be fulfilled by a course or credit taken before matriculation at Dartmouth.
- A course *can* fulfill both a distributive requirement and a world culture requirement
- A course *can* fulfill both a distributive requirement and a major requirement
- You can identify the Distributive and World Culture (WC) requirements for course in the ORC (see further below) and on the timetable (see further below)
The Major

- You must complete the Requirements of a Major.
- You must elect your major by the end of your 5th term on campus (during your sophomore year)
- You *can* (but need not) also fulfill the requirement of
  - A minor
  - A second major
- You can modify a major from courses in another department. This is called a “modified major”.
- Explore your different options in your first year. The great majority of students do not end up majoring in the subject they thought they would when they began college.
The Timetable

- Dartmouth’s timetable of classes will structure your week.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>65-Minute periods three times weekly:</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MWF 9L</td>
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<tr>
<td>MWF 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>MWF 11</td>
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<td>MWF 12</td>
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<td>MWF 2</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>50-Minute periods four times weekly:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MTuThF 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>MTuThF 9S</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>110-Minute periods twice weekly:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ATuThF 10A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TuThF 2A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M 3A</td>
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<tr>
<td>and Th</td>
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<tr>
<td>TuThF 3B</td>
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</table>

Alternate modes of conducting classes in the 9, 10, 11, 12, 2, 10A, and 2A sequences exist: see ORC.
The Honor Principle

- Be certain that you have read and understand Dartmouth’s honor principle. You can find it at:
  
  [http://www.dartmouth.edu/judicialaffairs/honor/index.html](http://www.dartmouth.edu/judicialaffairs/honor/index.html)

- The same goes for Dartmouth’s guide to citation and sources. Sources at Dartmouth College:
  
Off-Campus Programs

- Dartmouth offers three kinds of Off-campus Programs
  - The Language Study Abroad (LSA)
  - The Foreign Study Program (FSP)
  - Foreign or domestic *exchange programs* (with partner institutions)
- You can also arrange a *transfer term* (which you would independently arrange with another institution)
- About 2/3 of Dartmouth students do an off-campus program.
- Many *(many!)* students report that it was one of their best and most important Dartmouth experiences.
Placement and Placement Tests

- Some Placement Exams are takes online (dates differ).
- Some Placement Exams are taken at the Exam Center on Tuesday September 8 and 9:
- Some Placement Exams are administered departmentally and take place in departmental offices on campus on either Wednesday September 9 or Friday September 11.

For specific information about Placement Exams see: [www.dartmouth.edu/~orientation/placement/index.html](http://www.dartmouth.edu/~orientation/placement/index.html)

Remember, the primary purpose of Placement Exams is to ensure that you are taking courses appropriate for your level of preparation
Choosing Courses

• You must choose three courses for your first term*

• You will elect your course on the web through “bannerstudent”

• You should discuss your choices with your First-year advisor

* Note that a typical first-term course load comprises three courses; a student can take two, but should discuss this with an undergraduate dean or faculty advisor
Some advice about choosing courses….

• Try to take at least one small course every term (20 students or less). In your first term, a Writing course or First-year seminar will be a small course.

• Try to take at least one course you could not have taken in High School.
  – Dartmouth’s curriculum includes over 1600 courses.
  – Use your first year (and your distributive requirements) to explore new areas of thinking and knowledge.

• Math 3 (or the 1-2 sequence) is a prerequisite for many science courses. There is, however, no math requirement at Dartmouth
The First-Year Book

A particularly good resource

Also available online at:
http://www.dartmouth.edu/~upperde/pdfs/2015_e3_guide.pdf
The ORC

- ORC stands for Organization, Regulations, and Courses
- Most questions you have about the curriculum will be answered by the ORC
- The “C” portion of the ORC includes specific information about every department and program, and a detailed listing of all courses

The ORC is found on-line at http://www.dartmouth.edu/~reg/catalog/
# How to read an ORC entry

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Number</th>
<th>REL 31</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course Title</td>
<td>Sex, Celibacy, and the Problem of Purity: Asceticism and the Human Body in Late Antiquity</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Late Antiquity (c. 300-500 C.E.) was a time when Christians struggled to understand how gender, family life, and religion could intermash. Did virgins get to heaven faster than those who marry? Can a chaste man and woman live together without succumbing to lust? Were men holier than women? What about women who behaved like men? This course examines the changing understanding of the body, marriage, sexuality, and gender within Christianity through reading saints’ lives, letters, polemical essays, and legal texts. Open to all classes.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Instructor</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MacEvitt</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cross Listed Courses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>WCST 43.2 and CLST 11.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Distributive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dist: TMV; WCult: W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Offered</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>13S: 2A</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Course description**

This course is taught by Professor MacEvitt (Department of Religion).

**Cross listing in other departments** (in this case, Women and Gender Studies, and Classics)

**Terms and times the course is offered** (in this case, Spring term of 2013, in the 2A period)

Distributive and World culture requirements fulfilled by this class, in the case the TMV Distributive and the Western World culture requirements
How to read an ORC entry

Course number: PSYC 28

Course title: Cognition

Course description:
An introduction to the study of thought, memory, language, and attention from the point of view of information processing. In surveying research in cognitive psychology, substantial contact is made with related cognitive sciences, such as artificial intelligence, linguistics, neuroscience, and contemporary philosophy. In the course of examining general principles of cognition, the following topics are discussed: mental imagery; concepts; reasoning; discourse; monetary and courtroom decision making; eye-witness testimony; social attribution and stereotyping; language in chimpanzees; expert systems; the relationship between human and computer intelligence; the neural basis of cognition; the relationship between information processing and conscious experience; and the philosophical foundations of cognitive science.

Instructor:
Kelley

Cross-Listed Courses:
COGS 2

Prerequisites:
PSYC 1 or 6 or COSC 5.

Distributive:
SOC

Offered:
13S, 14S: 2

This course is taught by Professor Kelley (Dept of Psychological and Brain Sciences)

This course is identical to Cognitive Science 2

This course fulfills an SOC (Social analysis) Distributive requirement, but no World Culture Requirement

This course is offered in Spring of ‘13 and spring of 14, in the 2-hour
Health-Professions Program: Pre-health Advising and Experience

- Many students at Dartmouth are interested in a future career in the medical and health professions including medicine, veterinary medicine, dentistry, nursing, public health, etc.
- There is no pre-health major. There are courses required for a future health career and a variety of extracurricular programs that allow students to test their interest in this career.
- Pre-Health advising runs in parallel to faculty advising. The Health Professions Program (HPP) offices are located in Parker House. All students with a potential interest in health careers should attend the pre-health meeting, as well as the D-plan advising session, during orientation. All are encouraged to work with both the HPP advisors and their faculty advisor in planning courses and extracurricular pursuits throughout their entire time at Dartmouth.
- The best web resource for pre-health advice is The Nathan Smith Society (NSS) website: [www.dartmouth.edu/~nss](http://www.dartmouth.edu/~nss). All students are encouraged to join NSS through this site and to read the document ‘Advice for Entering Students’ (this document has the “core facts” you should be aware of at the outset). Advising hour times (walk-in & appointments) posted on the NSS home page.
# Our Grading System

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Grade Point Values</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>1. Excellent mastery of course material</td>
<td>A: 4</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Student performance indicates a very high degree of originality, creativity, or both</td>
<td>A- : 3 2/3</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3. Excellent performance in analysis, synthesis, and critical expression, oral or written</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4. Student works independently with unusual effectiveness</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>1. Good mastery of course material</td>
<td>B+: 3 1/3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Student performance demonstrates a high degree of originality, creativity, or both</td>
<td>B: 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. Good performance in analysis, synthesis, and critical expression, oral or written</td>
<td>B-: 2 2/3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4. Student works well independently</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>1. Acceptable mastery of course material</td>
<td>C+: 2 1/3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Student demonstrates some degree of originality, creativity, or both</td>
<td>C: 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. Acceptable performance in analysis, synthesis, and critical expression, oral or written</td>
<td>C-: 1 2/3</td>
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<td></td>
<td>4. Student works independently at an acceptable level</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>1. Deficient in mastery of course material</td>
<td>D: 1</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2. Originality, creativity, or both apparently absent from performance</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3. Deficient performance in analysis, synthesis, and critical expression, oral or written</td>
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<td></td>
<td>4. Ability to work independently deficient</td>
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<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>1. Serious deficiency in mastery of course material</td>
<td>E: 0</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Originality, creativity, or both clearly lacking</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. Seriously deficient performance in analysis, synthesis, and critical expression, oral or written</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4. Cannot work independently</td>
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Learning @ Dartmouth

- Learning @ Dartmouth (L@D), in its 22th year, is an “extended orientation program” offered fall term to first-year students.
- Over 90 first-year students enrolled last fall.
- Students can receive one PE credit for successfully completing L@D.
- Students will learn: active learning skills, time management, effective note taking, and writing strategies.
- Students will also learn about important campus resources: faculty, undergraduate deans, Off Campus Programs, Center for Professional Development.
- L@D meets Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4PM-5PM for the first seven weeks of the term.
- Enroll on the Academic Skills Center website.
- For more information, students can blitz "ASC" or call 646-2014.
- L@D is coordinated by Carl P. Thum, Ph.D., the Director of the Academic Skills Center.

For more, see: http://www.dartmouth.edu/~acskills/learningatdartmouth.html
(Q) Where do I buy books?

(A) Most faculty order books through Wheelock books (on West Wheelock, across from Collis) or the Dartmouth bookstore (on Main street). Some students buy their books online; but you need to be sure you have them in time.

(Q) Do I need them for the first day of class?

(A) It is a good idea to have them, though you need not bring the books with you to class.
Some commonly asked Questions (...and answers)

(Q) How do I find out where my class meets and who the professor is?

(A) Your best bet is the timetable, available on the registrar’s website http://oracle-www.dartmouth.edu/dart/groucho/timetable.main

(Q) Can I place out of the Language Requirement?

(A) Yes, if you have proficiency in a foreign language, or if English is your second language.

Placing out is done through the Placement Tests during Orientation.

If you are proficient in a language which is not taught at Dartmouth, you should make an appointment to see Professor of Linguistics David A. Peterson (David.A.Peterson@Dartmouth.edu) to see about an exemption.
Important (web) resources

- Most curricular information can be answered by information from the registrar's office.
  http://www.dartmouth.edu/~reg

- For up-to-date information about classes, times, class-room assignments, class size, distributives, and so forth, see the timetable:
  http://oracle-www.dartmouth.edu/dart/groucho/timetable.main
  You can search by department, by term, by timeslot, and by general education requirement. This only lists current courses and courses schedule for the next term.

- For longer range planning, use the Prospectus:
  http://oracle-www.dartmouth.edu/dart/groucho/prospectus.main
  This will give you information about course schedule for one year out. It is not as current as the timetable, and information in it will change (as courses get added, schedules get moved, and so forth).

- All curricular information - including majors, minors, courses, prerequisites, and so forth - is contained in the ORC. It is found online at:
  http://www.dartmouth.edu/~reg/courses/desc/index.html

- Important Dates and Deadlines in the Academic Calendar are found at:
  http://www.dartmouth.edu/~reg/calendars/index.html
Important (web) resources (2)

- The Office of Undergraduate Advising and Research includes information about Advising, Funding for Research, Scholarships (both Dartmouth specific and national)
  
  http://www.dartmouth.edu/~ugar/

- In particular, there is useful information geared towards first year student course election in the Advising Handbook for Faculty:
  
  http://www.dartmouth.edu/~ugar/premajor/faculty/handbook/index.html

- Students interested in Pre-Health or Pre-Med curricula should consult the Nathan Smith Society Website:
  
  http://www.dartmouth.edu/~nss

- All students should know about and make use of the Academic Skills Center
  
  http://www.dartmouth.edu/~acskills

- For tutors, study groups, and one-on-one help
For more information...

Contact:
  Your Dean
  Your First-year Advisor

Or Consult:
  The First-Year Book
  The ORC
  Dartmouth’s website
Find your passions.
* Be open to new challenges.
* Figure out what you love to learn about.
* Try to care more about learning than about grades.
* Work hard, and enjoy your education.