

On Course

A newsletter of the Dartmouth College Registrar's Office

Volume 2, Issue 4

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Coming Soon

Major and Minor Declaration Made Easier

An upgrade to DegreeWorks has given us an opportunity to review and improve the Major/Minor Declaration process. Feedback from students, department/program administrators, and faculty members has been shared with Information Technology Services as we have partnered to develop the new application. Look for an announcement when it's ready to use.

Special thanks to Amy Hunt and José Sinclair leading the effort in the Registrar's Office and our beta users who helped us along the way: Jenna Wheeler from Engineering, Ann Fenton from Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, Jill Syphus from Spanish and Portuguese, and Gail Patten from History. Faculty members who provided feedback: Thomas Jack, Kathryn Cottingham, and Sharon Bickel and staff member Amy Layne from Biological Sciences, Tom Cormen and Prasad Jayanti from Computer Science, Catherine Cramer from Psychological and Brain Sciences. Also Faith Rotich '18, Crystal Clements '18, Genna (Yihang) Liu '19, and our talented Information and Technology Services team led by Tom Joseph, Lead Programmer Analyst.

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60-second Survey Results—Where Do Students Get Academic Date Info?

Thank you... Students who participated in our 60-Second survey on academic date information. Here are the results, based on **277** respondents.

Emails and the Term Calendar

Almost 60% of respondents indicate that they find the Registrar reminder emails and term calendars on our website helpful. The Registrar's home page and the College event calendar were referenced less frequently.

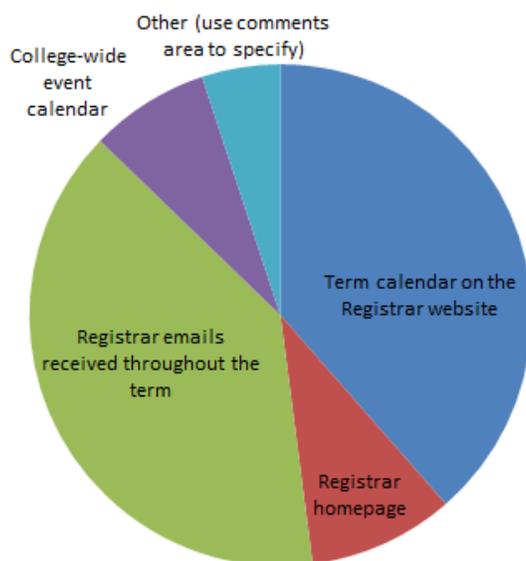
Text Messages for Academic Date Reminders

Over 50% of respondents indicated that they would like to receive academic date information via text message in addition to current email reminders.

What did we learn?

Despite the numerous emails students receive daily from many campus offices, students indicated it would be helpful to receive a few additional email reminders from the Registrar's Office. In particular reminders would be helpful at the start and end of registration periods, and perhaps some targeted messages to students on off-campus programs. We were unsure whether students would want to receive text messages about academic date information, and discovered that some would appreciate them.

Which of the following do you use frequently for your academic date and deadline information?



What's next?

The Registrar's Office will add a few additional email reminders for registration periods which we plan to have in place by the fall. We also plan to investigate options for an "opt-in" text-message reminder system. See a results summary and sampling of student comments on our [60-second Survey page](#).

Reminder: New Class Schedule—effective summer 2016

The new class schedule goes into effect with the academic year 2016-17, beginning with the 2016 summer term.

What's Changed?

- Meeting start and end times for all time periods (except 8) have changed. This includes the x-hour periods.
- While the codes (2A, 11, 10A, etc.) used on the Timetable of Class Meetings may look the same the time periods they represent have changed.
- The time between class periods is now fifteen (15) minutes rather than ten (10).
- There are two new evening time periods: 6A and 6B.

See [our website](#) for a detailed view of the new class schedule.

Campus Collaborations

Working with Students, Faculty Members and Information Technology Services

While Banner is a powerful system and works well, it isn't very "attractive." Students asked if the look and feel of the Banner "landing page" they see when they log in could be improved, and provided a prototype of a possible new appearance. Together with ITS' web team and other offices that use Banner, a new schema is under development. The goal is a better user experience.

Also Professor Tom Cormen, Computer Science, together with ITS developed an online "Names and Faces" application that we have reviewed and supported. It will be made available on Banner for all faculty members to assist them as they learn the students in their classes.

Data and Reporting Services

The Registrar's Office supports multiple reporting and research initiatives of the Dean of Faculty Division each year, providing data as needed to include historical academic records, enrollment data, and other student data. Soon academic departments and programs will be able to access that data on individualized dashboards. In addition we have been able to support faculty members' research that requires student data with data from the student data warehouse. Faculty members may contact registrar@dartmouth.edu for more information about those services.

The Registrar's Office does not provide data for student research projects or to other constituencies; we suggest those interested see the Office of Institutional Research (OIR) website for public information about Dartmouth College, contact the Division of Student Affairs, or contact Dartmouth Alumni Relations. Registrar Office services are limited to data provision only; our Office does not provide research or analytical services. Those services may be available from the Office of Institutional Research or Center for Program Design and Evaluation (CPDE).

Welcome

Eric Parsons, Senior Associate Registrar

We welcome Eric as Dartmouth's new Senior Associate Registrar. Eric, who has spent the last 15 years working in higher education almost entirely in the registrar field, is the former Registrar and Director of Institutional Research at Southern Vermont College. Eric also worked previously in the University Registrar's Office at Arizona State University (ASU). Eric looks forward to meeting Dartmouth students, Faculty members, and staff in the days to come.

Whitney Banker,
Assistant Registrar for
Operations

On Course editor
