

Frequently Asked Questions About Freshman Requirements

1. Do I have to take a foreign language at Wheaton College?

Not necessarily. However, the only exceptions are music majors and students who meet the foreign language requirement with a qualifying score on an AP, IB, or SAT Subject exam. Others may take a test in a language that is not taught at Wheaton College. (Such students should see the Foreign Language Department for test options and fees.) Students who take foreign language at Wheaton are required to pass the final exam in the 201 course of French, German, Greek, Spanish, Mandarin Chinese, or Hebrew 401. Music majors: please check www.wheaton.edu/catalog for foreign language requirements, if any.

2. If I score 4 or 5 on the AP US History exam, will that meet the Historical Perspectives requirement?

The AP US History exam does NOT meet Wheaton's Core Historical Perspectives requirement. If you will be a history major, it will count toward your major requirements. Otherwise it will be elective credit; that is, the 4 credits you earn will count toward the 124-hour degree requirement. The Historical Perspectives requirement can be met with any course that has the Historical Perspectives (HP) tag. (See Course Guide p. 11)

3. When can I meet with an advisor to work out my class schedule?

Your first meeting with your advisor will be during Freshman Orientation in the fall. All of the information that you need in order to select courses is posted on the Freshman Advising website:

www.wheaton.edu/registrar under the link to "Freshman Advising".

If you have specific questions, send them to Freshman.Advising@wheaton.edu, or call 630-752-7373.

For music majors, send your questions to Conservatory.Advising@wheaton.edu or call 630-752-5487.

4. Where do I direct questions about my my.wheaton portal access?

Contact the IT Service department at 630-752-4357. They will be able to assist you with your password and other questions you may have.

5. How do I get a "time ticket" to register in Banner Self-Service?

You will be assigned a "time ticket" to register online only after completing Freshman Questionnaire that was sent to your Wheaton email address in mid June. If you need the link re-sent, please contact

Freshman.Advising@wheaton.edu or 630-752-7373.

6. On the class schedule under Time, what does "R" mean?

We use one-letter abbreviations for days of the week: R is the abbreviation we use for Thursday, and T for Tuesday. So a course that meets "TR" meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

7. What are Quads?

Some 1- and 2-hour courses meet for only half of a semester. Those meeting during the first half are referred to as "A Quad" courses, and those meeting during the second half, as "B Quad" courses. A Quad courses end at fall [or spring] break, and B Quad courses begin after fall [or spring] break. The Quad designation on the course schedule appears in the column labeled "Qd". (See p. 2 of Course Guide, "Course Load")

10. I want to be a medical doctor; is it necessary for me to take both biology and chemistry my first semester?

Because the BIOL 241 and CHEM 231 courses are offered only in the fall semester it is recommended, though not required, that you take both your first semester. Otherwise, you will have to wait until the next fall semester to begin the biology or chemistry sequence.

11. How can I register for the Oral Communication and Bible Competency exams?

Both exams are offered during the fall semester. The Broadcaster (official notices for students, faculty, and staff that is published in "my wheaton" online) will have information about how, when, and where to register. Music majors: please check www.wheaton.edu/catalog for Oral Communication requirements, if any.

12. How can I test out of the Writing requirement?

Only students with qualifying test scores on the ACT Writing, ACT ELA, SAT Essay, or AP Lang/Comp exam are exempt from taking writing. Some of those students may have to take ENGW 104 (2 hours). All other students must take ENGW 103 Writing Effective Prose (4 hours). (See Course Guide p. 4)

13. Will I have a chance to change my schedule before classes begin?

Yes, anytime before freshman registration closes for the summer (July 29th) and again during fall freshman orientation.