Peer-to-Peer Enrollment Advice

INTERNATIONAL? FREAKING OUT ABOUT CLASSES? Here’s some peer-to-peer advice about enrollment in the College of Arts and Sciences as an international first year.

1. SIS Tutorials: UVA’s tutorials are actually pretty helpful! Before you sign up make sure you know how to add, drop, swap, edit and most important - use the waitlist. You can find them here: http://its.virginia.edusis/student/

2. ENROLLMENT: International students get to sign up online on August 2 before your orientation session. If you attend Session K of Summer Orientation, you will enroll in open classes via SIS on Aug 2nd. To determine your specific enrollment time, please click on the Enrollment Dates link in your SIS Student Center early next week. (All times are Eastern Time! GMT-4) I recommend that you enroll in the classes that you want the second the clock turns from 10:59am to 11:00am. Classes fill up quicker than you can say U-V-A.

3. SHOPPING CARTS & ENROLLING: Adding a class to your shopping cart is just like adding an item to your shopping cart on Amazon: Just because an item is in there doesn’t mean you have “checked out”. You can only "check out" the day that you are allowed to sign up. Adding a class to your shopping cart only means that when you do enroll, you’ll have it right there to click on “enroll”. It does not reserve a spot for you.

4. CREDIT HOURS: You can sign up for up to 16 credit hours on your first enrollment date (Session K: Aug 2). You may also join waitlists for courses on Aug 6 at 7 am ET (Credit hours are the “unit” of a course. Most classes you will take have between 1-4 units, but they are most commonly 3 units.). **If you want to take more than 16 credits, you have to wait to enroll in a maximum of 17 on August 6.**

5. WAITLIST: Do not panic! Many people add and drop classes, and you can get into a 200-person class even if you are number 40 on the waitlist. A good rule of thumb is that 10-15% of the students drop, so up to that number you’ll have a chance of getting in. **You can start waitlisting for classes on Aug 6 starting at 7 am ET.** To do so, check the option “waitlist if class is full” while picking a class in SIS. This guarantees you get a spot on the waitlist. Remember, SIS will not let you enroll in more than 17 credits and will not let you take two classes that conflict timewise, so edit your waitlist requests to ensure that you designate a course to drop/swap so you get the classes you want. You have 17 waitlist credits to use in addition to the 17 credits in which you may be enrolled on Aug 6.
6. RESOURCES: UVA has a lot of advising resources! Reach out to your Association Dean (based on your dorm: http://college.as.virginia.edu/association-deans) and ask them to check your schedule, email a professor if you aren’t sure a class is right for you, or reach out to Global Greeters for peer-advice.

7. FINDING CLASSES: This is your chance to explore! Take things you are interested in, and not just what your parents might want you to take. For exploring your options, Lou’s List (https://rabi.phys.virginia.edu/mySIS/CS2/) is often helpful and more organized than SIS. But you should trust SIS with the statistics about class size, open, closed, etc. because Lou’s List is not real time.

8. PREREQS: If you have no idea where to start, go ahead and look for classes that fulfill your requirements. Please check with your selected College Curriculum at http://gened.as.virginia.edu for specifics. If you are not exempt (only Echols/Science Scholars are exempt) from the First Writing Requirement, read more about it here https://professionalwriting.as.virginia.edu/requirements. Don’t choose classes simply because they meet requirements, explore classes that sound interesting to you. Also, take a COLA 1500 seminar (or join a COLA waitlist) for a unique first year experience!

9. LANGUAGE: As an international student, your native, non-English Language, may fulfill the foreign language requirement, read more about it here http://college.as.virginia.edu/fl-placement-exams on ways to earn exemption. That said, learning an additional language never hurts and enhances a truly international education!

10. DISCUSSIONS & LABS: Discussions are usually not classes by themselves. They accompany a lecture. This means that you’ll have a lecture section time and in addition you will enroll in one of the corresponding discussion times. They go together and count as one class. Discussions are usually led by teaching assistants. Some discussions are focused on getting a better grasp of the material, while others you give you practice problems.

For example, when enrolling in Principles of Microeconomics (ECON 2010): You will add the Lecture "Section 090” to your shopping cart, and as you do this, on the next page you will select your discussion e.g. "Section 107”. Discussion and lecture together will be 3 credits.

In contrast, make sure you enroll in any lab classes that you need separately. Just because you are enrolled in a class doesn’t mean you are enrolled in a corresponding lab section! These are taught by different professors most of the time, and have completely separate curriculums and assignments. For example, Introductory Chemistry (for non-engineers) is CHEM 1410, and Introductory Chemistry Lab is CHEM 1411.

11. PRE-MED: If you plan on beginning the pre-health track (i.e. pre-med, pre-dental, or pre-veterinary), you should find out what (if any) credit you received in high school for intro biology and intro chemistry. It is important to enroll in at least one of these two intro sciences (some first years even take both) so that you will be prepared to take higher level science classes during your second year. If you didn’t get any
high school credit for these classes, don’t stress about it! Most people come in with no credit and do well. Also, check out this video about pre-health advising: https://youtu.be/t9qm37pGuYc

12. PRE-COMM/PRE-BATTEN/ PRE-CURRY If you come in as one of those three, hoping to gain admission to the McIntire School of Commerce, Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy, or Curry School of Education during your time at UVA, make sure you aware of the prerequisites and start taking those required classes early. It’s recommended to spread out the prerequisites over multiple semesters as your performance in those classes will play an important role in your chance of being admitted. (e.g. only take a max of to two pre-comm classes at the same time).

https://www.commerce.virginia.edu/undergrad/prerequisites

As always, if you have any questions, feel free to email a Global Greeters or message us on Facebook!