The first time attending a college or university can be both exciting and a little overwhelming. This information is designed to help make your next steps easier.

1. **Have you completed the New Student Advising Questionnaire?**
2. **Do you need to take any placement exams?**
3. **Have you earned or do you expect to earn any college credit (dual or transfer credit) or credit by exam (AP, SAT, etc)?**
4. **When do I get to register for classes?**
5. **Where can I find more academic advising resources.**

Don’t forget to check out more great information on the **Academic Advising** web site.
New Student Advising Questionnaire

• So, what is the advising questionnaire?
• All new students who have paid the enrollment deposit should complete the New Student Advising Questionnaire. The information you provide in the questionnaire is a self-report of all expected college credit from another university or credit by exam and any foreign or sign language experience. This last part is especially important for foreign language placement. Your responses on the questionnaire give your academic advisor critical information needed to prepare for your advising appointment during Orientation.

• Complete and submit the Questionnaire by logging into Go Baylor (only if you have not already done so.)

• Already completed the Questionnaire? Click here, and we’ll move on to the next step!
Who needs to take a placement exam?

• Placement exams are assessments that determine the level at which you should begin in certain subjects. You don’t earn credit with them like you might with an AP exam, but they let you know which class to begin with in math, languages, or English. You may need to take one, two, or all three placement exams depending on your SAT or ACT scores or your background. Let’s look at each to determine if you need them. We’ll start with Math.

• Know which you need? Great! Be sure to take placement exams on Day One of Orientation. So, let’s see what is next.
Mathematics Placement Examination

• If you chose a major or program which requires calculus (for example biology, chemistry, engineering, computer science, or pre-healthcare), you may be required to take the Mathematics Placement Exam (MPE).

• If your major or program is in one of those areas, check your ACT or SAT math scores to see if you need the MPE.
  
  – SAT math below 550 or ACT math below 24 needs to take the exam.
  – SAT math between 550 & 600 or ACT math between 24 & 28 can take pre-calculus without the exam. You need the exam to get into Calculus. This is especially true if you have above a 600 or 28.
  – SAT math between 600 and 650 or ACT math between 28 and 31 strongly advised to take the MPE to see if he or she qualifies to skip MTH 1304 and begin with MTH 1321.
  – SAT math above 650 or ACT math above 31 should register for Calculus without taking the exam.

• Pre-calculus for Business and Calculus for Business do not require a placement exam

• You do not need any materials for the MPE. Call 254-710-3562 or email Margaret_Salinas@baylor.edu for other exam information.

• What about your foreign language?
Modern Foreign Language Placement Exam (MFLPE)

You MUST take the MFLPE in order to register for French or German **only** if you have had prior experience in either language. If you have had no prior experience in French or German, you may register for the first level (FRE or GER 1401) without taking the MFLPE.

You MUST take the MFLPE in order to register for any level of Spanish if you have had 2 or more years of high school courses or living experience in the language. If you have less than 2 years of course work or living experience in Spanish, you may register for the beginning course in that particular language without taking the MFLPE provided you submit a New Student Advising Questionnaire with responses to the foreign language areas.

- There is no charge for the MFLPE.
- Allow 30 minutes for the computerized exam.
- Bring a photo ID (Driver's license, high school ID, Baylor ID, etc.)
- The exam is available on a first-come, first-served basis, Monday – Friday, 9 – 5 in the Language Acquisition Lab in Draper 300.
- Please arrive at least 30 minutes before the lab closes. Call (254) 710-4526 for questions about hours of operation.

Last is **English**.
English Placement Exam -- EPE

You would need to take this one-hour writing (essay) exam if:

- You have scored 19 or below on the English component of the ACT;
- You have scored 490 or below on the Verbal component of the SAT; or
- Baylor does not have a record of your ACT or SAT scores.

Based upon a reading by English faculty members, the results of your exam will place you in either English 1302 or English 0300. Call 254-710-1768 for questions about the EPE.

Now that you know which exams you need to plan for, what’s next?
Dual credit, transfer credit, or credit by exam

• Have you earned college credit from another college or from Dual Credit High School courses?
  – If you received college credit or dual credit for college courses while in high school, you will need to request an official transcript from the college or university. Have them send the transcript to Admission Services, One Bear Place # 97056, Waco, TX 76798-7056. Your high school transcript cannot be used to transfer college credit to Baylor. Let your advisor know of any college course credit that is pending so we can plan your schedule accordingly.

• Did you take an AP, IB, SAT II, or CLEP test?
  – The biggest question you may ask here is whether you are going to get credit at Baylor for your exam. The Institutional Research and Testing department (www.baylor.edu/irt/cbe) has all the details about each exam and contact information for College Board in Taking CBE Tests, as well as CBE policies and other specific exam information. Check it out to see if you will receive credit.
  – If you plan to earn credit, be sure to have the official scores sent to Baylor. If you received AP credit during your junior year and did not have the scores sent to Baylor, you should contact College Board as soon as possible. Their contact information is at www.baylor.edu/irt.

Once you have those scores on the way, what is next?
When do I get to register for classes?

- In order to get advised and registered for classes, you need to sign up for an Orientation session via your goBaylor account as soon as possible.
- If you are able to attend Orientation in June, you will meet with your advisor to select classes and register on Day Two of your two-day session.
- If you are unable to attend any of the June Orientation sessions, your advisor will work with you to advise and register you by e-mail or phone.
- The advising appointment is an important time for students and advisors to work together in a one-on-one partnership. Be sure you have completed the New Student Advising Questionnaire and taken any needed placement tests before your advising session.

Before you talk with your advisor about classes, you’ll want to do some preparation. So, let’s see if we can answer some of your concerns [here](#).
Advisement and Registration

Since this is your first time at Baylor, you may still have questions about how to register for classes, which classes are required, how advising works and what a typical schedule looks like. We’ll try to answer some of your concerns here and get you ready for advisement and registration. Click on the question to find out the answer.

• How do I prepare for my first advising session?
• Who should attend the advising session?
• How do I register for classes?
• What is the course numbering system at Baylor?
• What is a good schedule for the first semester at Baylor?
• How can I make schedule changes?

You may have additional questions, so please feel free to contact an advisor at Academic Advisement by calling 254-710-7280 or by sending a message to academic_advisement_office@baylor.edu.

Be sure to go to the Academic Advising site for more great information. You may also return and review these steps by clicking here.
How do I prepare for my first advising session?

• Since you have completed the New Student Advising Questionnaire, the next step is to gather information about areas of academic interest. Review the degree and major requirements in your areas of interest before coming to Orientation or working with an advisor. During the Orientation experience, academic and interest sessions are offered on Day One so you and your parents have an opportunity to meet with faculty and staff and ask questions.

• You can get information about degrees and majors and the requirements for each in the Quicklinks area on the Academic Advising web site at www.baylor.edu/advising. Here are just a few of the available resources:

  Degree Requirement Guide – An overview of degrees and minimum requirements including lists of majors, minors, and other special programs to be used as a companion with the Baylor Undergraduate Catalog.

  Major Academic Plans (MAP) – Four-year, semester-by-semester sequences of course requirements by major and academic unit.

  Baylor Undergraduate Catalog – University policies; degree and major requirements by academic unit; course descriptions.

  Common First Year Courses Worksheet – Courses including prefixes, numbers and titles common to most degree requirements for first year students.

Return to get more answers.
Who should attend the advising session?

- Advisors recommend that parents and students engage in preliminary discussions before the advising appointment. With this prior planning, the student is prepared to attend the advising session independently while parents take advantage of the sessions being offered at that time in the Orientation schedule. Working within F.E.R.P.A. guidelines, advisors will ask the student’s permission if parents request to attend the advising session. See Quicklinks on the Advising web site at www.baylor.edu/advising.
How do I register for classes?

• During the 30-minute appointment at Orientation, advisors review each student's academic information and recommend courses for the fall semester. In turn, students verify any completed or pending academic credits and select courses from recommended options. Students are then registered for the first semester schedule at the end of the advising session. In future semesters, students will register themselves on BearWeb after they are advised.

• [Return to get more answers.](#)
What is the course numbering system at Baylor?

Baylor course numbers consist of an alpha prefix followed by a four-digit course number.

The level is specified by the first digit, as follows:

- 1 = freshman
- 2 = sophomore
- 3 = junior
- 4 = senior
- 5 = graduate (master or doctor)
- 6 = doctoral level

The second digit indicates the number of credit hours for the course.

As an example, REL 1310 is a three hour, freshman level class while CLA 3380 is a three hour, junior level course.

Return to get more answers.
What is a good schedule for the first semester at Baylor?

The following class schedule is an example of a first semester of courses for the beginning student. Course selections vary according to degrees, majors, or programs considered by each student. Completed credit by exam, transfer credit, and placement exams will also determine appropriate course options.

Sample class schedule
Chapel.............. 0
English*.............. 3
Religion ............. 3
Science (w/lab)... 4
and/or
Language*......... 3 to 4
Math*................. 3
Fine Art ............ 2 to 3
and/or
Social Science .... 3

TOTAL: ..........15 to 16 hours

*Placement exams may be required.

Other schedule considerations:

   – An average course load is 15-16 semester hours. Some students adjust their course load depending on the rigor of the courses, time needed to prepare, and other time investments. A guide some faculty recommend for class preparation is two hours of study to every one hour in class each week, especially for heavy reading courses.
   – Advisors will recommend the appropriate course load to achieve balance in the type of study needed; i.e., two heavy reading courses with the remainder being applied courses (Math, Foreign Language, Science, etc.)
   – Time to graduation is another factor in determining course load. The minimum hours required for a degree at Baylor are 124; however, some degrees require more. Some students complete additional courses in summer school, if needed, in order to graduate by a particular time.

Return to get more answers.
How can I make schedule changes?

• Beginning June 25th, all eligible students may make schedule changes or drop/add classes on BearWeb at https://BearWeb.baylor.edu.

Return to get more answers.