First Year Advising

Marlene Sandstrom, Dean of the College
The short list of advising goals

- To welcome
- To help students understand the basics of the curriculum
- To be a developmental partner
- To encourage exploration

- To encourage interaction with faculty
- To be a conduit to other resources
- To normalize the use of resources
- To be a realistic voice
The arc of advising

- Summer check in
- Fall orientation **Sept 8th**
- Fall Advisories
- Spring pre-registration (Oct/Nov)
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- Fall pre-registration (April/May)
- Spring pre-registration for sophomores (Oct-Nov)
The basics (*with a COVID twist*)

- Pass 32 semester courses + 4 Winter Study courses**
- Complete major with at least a C- average
- Divisional requirement (1=Language/Arts; 2=Social Sciences; 3=Math/Science)
  - Complete 3 in each division
  - Complete 2/div by end of sophomore year
- Writing Skills requirement
  - Complete 1 by end of sophomore year; 2nd by end of junior year
- Quantitative/formal reasoning requirement
  - Complete 1 by end of junior year
- Difference, Power & Equity requirement
  - 1 by graduation
- Physical education requirement
  - 4 by end of sophomore year
- Half credit courses
Credits to graduate:

- 3 courses in Fall; 3 courses in Spring $\rightarrow$ 30 courses to graduate
- 3 courses in Fall; 4 courses in Spring $\rightarrow$ 31 courses to graduate
- 4 courses in Fall; 3 courses in Spring $\rightarrow$ 31 courses to graduate*
- 4 courses in Fall; 4 courses in Spring $\rightarrow$ 32 courses to graduate*

*4th courses are not “extra” moving forward
Withdrawal and Pass-Fail

- “Extra” courses can be dropped up to the 6th week without appearing on transcript
- After the 6th week, students can withdraw with joint permission of faculty and a dean; a W will appear on the transcript
- This year only - students can withdraw as late as the last day of classes
- This year only - students can use courses designated as P-F to meet college requirements (though not major requirements)
Critical Thinking

Communication

Wellness

Facility with data

Global mindset

Personal effectiveness

Community Consciousness

Wellness
Encouraging exploration

- **Strengths, skills, passions**
  - What have you most enjoyed academically?
  - Are there skills you are most interesting in building, and areas where you feel less confident?
  - Is there a topic that you are curious to learn more about?

- **Breadth**
  - Williams has these distribution requirements across sciences, humanities, and social sciences. Do you have any thoughts yet about how you might make the most of those?

- Are you getting any advice on course selection? From whom?
Encouraging exploration

- Giving themselves permission to be flexible
- Sitting in on an extra class
- Considering Pass-Fail
- Study away
- Experiential education
- Tutorials
- “Hope To” list
Course selection

- Balance
  - Disciplines, types of assignments, size
- Consider spring semester too
- Co-curriculars?
- Early concentration rule
- Long term goals
Field Specific Advisors

- **Engineering** (Kate Jensen, *Physics*)
- **Medicine, dentistry or veterinary medicine** (Rebecca Counter, Pre-Health advisor, *Center for Career Exploration*)
- **Law** (Anthony Pernell-McGee, *Center for Career Exploration*)
- **Education K-12** (Susan Engel, *Psychology*)
A word about the pre-med track

- Planning versus flexibility
- Most students do **NOT** go straight to medical school
- Some AP courses “count” (AP Calculus I and II; AP Physics)
- Study abroad is possible
  - But plan for Chemistry sequence
- Think about choosing a 100-level English course in the first year
- Consult with our Health Professions Advisor – Rebecca Counter
Preregistration this year

- **August 3**  Complete course catalog will be released to students.
- **Aug 3–10**  First- and second-year students will be encouraged to meet with their academic advisors before pre-registering, but there will be no registration advising holds.
- **Aug 10–17**  Pre-registration. Students will be able to pre-register for up to 3 courses.
- **Aug 20**  Deadline for instructors with overenrolled courses to review class rosters and select students to drop.
- **Aug 24–30**  Registration. Students may add a **fourth course** starting on August 26.
- **Sept 8–18**  Drop/Add open. Students may add a **fifth course** at this time.
- **Sept 8th**  Optional meeting for all first year advisers to discuss advisee placement info and departmental announcements
- **Sept 8th**  First year advisors meet advisees between 1:30 - 4:30