

The LAS Insider

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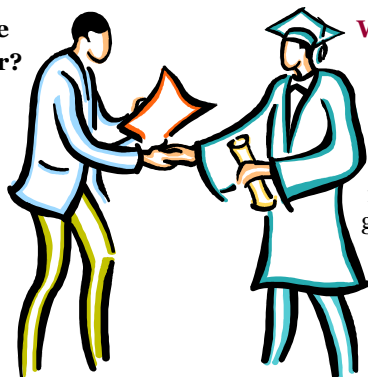
October 2006

Seeing an LAS Academic Advisor

When is the best time to see your LAS Academic Advisor?

Anytime is always a good time, but specific weeks are best for certain activities, such as requesting a late drop or checking how many foreign language classes you have left.

Here is a weekly breakdown of reasons to see your advisor:



Weeks 12-15

- Wrap things up – work out any outstanding issues
- Do damage control if semester is not ending on a good note
- Check graduation eligibility for next semester

Weeks between semesters

- Re-evaluate your schedule based on final grades and make changes
- Address academic probation and dismissal issues

Weeks 1-2

- Double-check schedule
- Ask questions about add/drops
- Decide about credit/no credit
- Check graduation eligibility for current semester

Weeks 3-6

- Process any late drops from classes
- Explore various concerns (probation, majors, future graduation, etc)
- Do a status check to see how things are going so far?

Weeks 7-12

- Obtain a DARS and get recommendations for next semester's classes
- Evaluate progress in courses
- Discuss whether or not to do a University Withdrawal

We highly encourage you to make an appointment to ensure that an advisor will be prepared with a DARS report and any necessary paperwork. Appointments can be made for Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday, 8:30am-4:00pm. Walk-ins are welcome on Tuesdays, 8:30-11:30, 1-3:30.

To make an appointment, call our front desk at 312-996-3366.

When you call, please have your student ID# and phone number handy. Also, tell the scheduler your major and if you are pursuing a pre-professional educational goal (pre-health or pre-law) so you can see the advisor that best fits your needs!

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LAS Headline News

LAS reaches an all-time high in freshmen retention rate. Freshmen who entered LAS in fall 2005 enrolled for this fall at a rate of over 80%. Surprising many, LAS freshmen continued into their second year at a higher rate than any other UIC college. We've known for a long time that LAS undergraduates are high achievers and now the data prove it.

Spring 2007 Registration

OAR assigns each student a registration date and time to enroll for the next term's courses. The specific date and time are determined by the individual's class standing and their total hours, with seniors having first priority, followed by juniors, sophomores, and freshmen.

You must look up your Spring 2007 Advance Registration Time Ticket (Appointment) on UIC Web for Student under registration eligibility. Also, check to make sure there are no holds on your account preventing you from registering on your assigned date and time.



It's once again time to register online.

November 8 – December 1 → **Advance Registration, by Time Ticket (Appointment)** only, for all continuing students.

You should enroll on your assigned date for maximum flexibility in scheduling the courses you need at the times you prefer. Class availability becomes more limited as the enrollment period progresses and you may limit your course and time selections if you register after your assigned day and time.

Registration procedures using UIC Web for Student are explained in the Schedule of Classes that is published each term. UIC Web for Student provides on-line registration information, enrollment processing, and unofficial transcript access. The Schedule of Classes will also be available on-line through UIC Web for Student.



So You Think You Want To Go To Law School

Many students say they are interested in going to law school, but few have actually researched their future career goals, the typical law school experience, or even the process for applying to law school. On Wednesday October 25th, come to the **UIC Pre-Law Office's Workshop: Deciding If Law School is the Right Choice for You.**

Learn what things you should be asking yourself if you think you're interested in going to law school. Hear from a panel of current professionals in different legal fields talk about their paths from

undergrad to law school, and from law school to their current profession. **Individuals from the fields of Corporate Law, Law School Administration and Teaching, Public Interest Law, and the Business World will be represented.** The discussion will be followed by a time for questions and answers from students attending the event.

Don't miss out!

Wednesday October 25th from 3:00-5:30 in Room 2 BSB

7 Choices

There are 7 choices successful students make. They are:

1. Accepting personal responsibility,
2. Discovering a motivating purpose, characterized by meaningful goals and dreams,
3. Consistently planning and taking effective actions in pursuing their goals,
4. Building mutually supportive relationships that assist them in pursuing their goals,
5. Maximizing learning by finding lessons in every experience they have,
6. Actively creating a positive experience of life, and
7. Believing in themselves.

"We were born to succeed, not to fail."

- Henry David Thoreau

Interested in Nursing?

For all students interested in Nursing...

Here is a session just for you.

October 25th (Wednesday) at 4pm

in Lecture Center F-3

Gain insight into the profession, the admissions process for undergraduate, accelerated, and masters degrees in Nursing. Talk to the Admissions Representative for UIC Nursing and meet an UIC Nursing alum.

Creating a Balanced Course Load

- **Choose your classes.** See an LAS Academic Advisor for a review of your DARS and remaining general education requirements. Study your DARS to see what you need to take. Then decide what you want to take. Make sure you understand what the class is about and what the course requires you to do. Read the course description in the catalog.

- **Ask yourself if you are taking a balanced course load.** Do you have a balance of interests and tasks? Balance the courses you find highly interesting with ones that may not be your favorites but are required general education requirements. Create a balance between courses that require too much of the same tasks such as heavy reading.



- **Check your requirements.** Make sure you have the pre-requisites to be taking a course. Just because the computer will let you register for the class, doesn't mean you have the required background to take the class.

- **Make several alternative schedules.** You may need a back-up plan if classes are full by the time it is your turn to register. Consider when each class meets. If you have a long commute or know that you aren't a morning person, then try not to schedule 8am classes. Don't overload your schedule and try to take all of your classes on two days. Leave yourself time to get from class to class and allow for breaks especially for lunch.

- **Don't procrastinate...**register as soon as possible.

60 Hours & Still Undeclared?

We recognize the importance of obtaining your college degree in a reasonable period of time, typically four years for those starting as freshmen. One of the major impediments to timely completion of degree requirements is failure to embark on a major field of study by the end of the sophomore year. The College has a long standing policy that requires all undergraduates to have a declared major by the time they have earned 60 semester hours of credit.

To enforce this policy, students over 60 hours with undeclared majors will not be able to register for the following semester until they have declared a major or obtained an extension from an advisor. Pre-major extensions are granted if the advisor decides that you are pursuing a reasonable goal, and have a good chance of gaining admission to your intended major.

Are you still undecided about what direction to take for your major and/or career? Come in and see an LAS Academic Advisor to discuss your options and campus resources available to help you make a decision.

“Even if you’re on the right track, you’ll get run over if you just sit there.”

-Arthur Godfrey

Registration Problems?

It can be frustrating trying to register for a variety of reasons.

Reason 1: You forgot to check to see if you have any holds. Check to make sure there is no hold (financial, immunization, advising, etc.) on your account preventing you from registering. If you were required to see an advisor or fulfill a requirement, make sure it is done well in advance of registration.

Reason 2: You are not linking course sections appropriately. If the class has more than one part (i.e. lecture/discussion or lecture/quiz/lab) make sure you have registered for each part appropriately. Make sure each section starts with the same

letter. The BL lecture must go with the BD discussion. You can't take a lecture from one professor and the discussion with a different professor. If you have questions, check the schedule of classes.



Reason 3: Closed Course. To be honest, there is not much that you can do. That is why it is important to register at your assigned date and time. Register for a back-up class and then keep checking to see if the class you want opens up again.

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, University of Illinois-Chicago

LAS Academic Advising Center
3rd floor of UH
Phone: 312-996-3366

Hours: 8:30-4:45
Appointments: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday
Walk-ins: Tuesday 8:30-11:30, 1-3:30

We're on the Web!

www.las.uic.edu



Get outside and enjoy Fall activities.

Beautiful changing colors are definitely one of the hallmarks of fall. Hop in the car, pack a picnic lunch, and get ready for a breathtaking hike or drive. Enjoy the fall harvest—visit a local “pick your own” farm. Participate in Chicago Halloween events—haunted houses, ghost tours, Halloween costume parties, etc.

Support UIC Athletics and attend an athletic event. Meet the UIC Men’s and Women’s Basketball teams at UIC Basketball Madness—8pm, Oct 13th at the UIC Pavilion.

Get tickets for the Fall Ball— 8pm-12am, Oct 13th at Kaleidoscope.

Attend Campus Movie nights and watch movies like *The Corpse Bride* or *Hostel*.

Participate in Campus Programs— Scary/Improv Story Night, Halloween Bingo, or Trick & Treat Spooky Karaoke.

To find out more about activities at UIC ...

Check out the Campus Programs newsletter:
<http://uic.cmpsprgrms.googlepages.com/home>.

And the Campus Calendar & Announcements found on the Events page of the UIC website for more things to do.

Below ‘C’ Level...

Are you having trouble keeping your head above water? Once you start sinking it is hard to surface again. You need to deal with the situation as soon as possible. Did problems arise because you didn’t do the readings or cut class? Was it because you couldn’t understand the material or didn’t know what the professor wanted? Once you’ve identified the reasons/causes of previous difficulties, you can make a plan to take corrective action.

Here are some tips...

Take stock and see where you stand. Gather together all of your graded work. Where did you lose points? Was there any particular kind of question or material you had difficulty with? What sort of comments were made by the grader? Based on your previous graded work, what would you say is the single biggest reason you are not getting the grades you want?



Reach out for help before it is too late.

Go back to the basics. Look back at the syllabus, course goals, lecture notes and handouts. Try to identify the topics covered and the points that are the main focus of the course. **Make sure you have the basic information of the course correct.** You need to get to the point where you clearly understand the course material and can communicate the material in a way that someone else can understand. **Get extra help from professors, TA’s and tutors. Make use of campus resources.** If you don’t know where to get help come talk with an LAS Academic Advisor.

Make an appointment with your professor and bring along your graded work. Don’t just say “I’m struggling in your class, what can I do?”. Be specific and explain to him or her what problems you’re having and ask for specific suggestions he or she would have for the remainder of the course. Also, if you have missed turning in assignments, see if you can make up the work.

Study harder and improve your academic skills. You should be studying at least 2 hours for every hour in class. So if you are taking 15 credit hours you should be studying for 30 hours a week. Examine your study habits and make any necessary changes. Are you studying in a place that has no distractions? Do you have the assigned readings done before class? Are you reviewing your lecture notes before and after class and adding notes of clarification? Examine how you prepare for exams. There are lots of places on campus to get help with improving your academic skills. See an LAS Academic Advisor for more information.