

Registering for Fall Classes: Your Step-by-Step Guide

Registering for classes for the first time can feel like a lot, but this guide will walk you through each step. You'll have time to explore your options, build a schedule, and make changes if needed.

Step One: Get Ready

Before registration opens:

- ☐ Review and understand your [placement results](#).
- ☐ Attend a [Zoom placement or advising session](#) (log-in required, for students only)
- ☐ Explore the [Academics and Course Registration](#) section of the [First Year Experience website](#).
- ☐ Save these registration dates:
 - **Transfer Students:** July 30 at 9:00 a.m. EDT
 - **All Other Students:** August 6 at 9:00 a.m. EDT

Step Two: Explore Your Options

Take some time to explore courses, learn about departments and programs and find classes that interest you.

- ☐ Browse the [Course Selection](#) section of the First Year Experience website.
- ☐ Visit [department and program](#) websites and check out the [advice for incoming students](#).
- ☐ Search for Fall courses in [Workday](#) and read course descriptions.



As you explore, look for:

- ✓ Labs or discussion sections
 - ✓ Placement requirements
 - ✓ Film screenings or extra meeting times
 - ✓ Open seats
- ☐ Make a list of **at least four courses** that interest you.

Step Three: Build Your Schedule

Once you've explored your options, it's time to put together a schedule.

- ☐ Include a [First-Year Writing Seminar](#) (and identify backup options).
- ☐ Choose **three additional courses**.
- ☐ Think about [distribution requirements](#) but remember, you don't need to complete them all in your first semester.
- ☐ Create at least one [saved schedule](#) in Workday.
- ☐ Create a backup schedule or identify alternate courses. It's common for classes to fill, so having a Plan B can make registration much easier.
- ☐ Confirm that you don't have any [Workday Holds](#).



Schedule Building Tips!

- ✓ Spread classes throughout the week.
- ✓ Leave yourself time for lunch and breaks.
- ✓ Avoid scheduling more than two classes back-to-back.
- ✓ Consider sequential courses, such as language classes and science course sequences.

Step Four: Before Registration Opens

Take one final look.

- ☐ Explore the [Registration section](#) of our First-Year Experience website.
- ☐ Double-check your saved schedule(s).
- ☐ Request any needed [prerequisite overrides](#).
- ☐ Review your [Action Items & Holds](#) in Workday (if any).



A Few Things Worth Mentioning Again

- ✓ **Plan for four full-credit courses.** First-year students cannot register for five full-credit courses.
- ✓ **Choose courses you're excited about.** You don't need to decide on a major yet—your first semester is a chance to explore.
- ✓ **Explore different areas of study.** You don't have to complete a distribution requirement each semester, but you might find it's a nice way to try out new subjects.
- ✓ **Plan your science courses carefully.** Avoid taking more than one science course with a lab that meets for three hours or longer during your first semester.
- ✓ **Interested in music?** You may add a half-credit ensemble or applied music course for a total of 4.5 credits.
- ✓ **Have backup courses ready.** Some courses fill quickly, so identify alternate options before registration opens.

Step Five: Registration Day

Registration day is here!

- ☐ Register using your saved schedule or individual courses.
- ☐ Registration is real time, so you'll immediately see whether you're enrolled or placed on a waitlist. If you're waitlisted, keep an eye on your [Workday notifications](#)—you'll be notified if a spot becomes available.

Step Six: After You Register

You're almost done!

- ☐ Review your schedule.
- ☐ Attend the **"What's Next?" Zoom session** for general help with waitlists or schedule changes.
- ☐ Monitor your [Workday notifications](#)—if you receive a waitlist offer, you'll need to accept it within 24 hours.
- ☐ Meet with your [Liberal Arts Advisor](#) during Orientation to review your schedule and make any needed changes.

What about books? You don't need to buy textbooks before classes begin (unless you want to). Your professors will let you know what materials you need on the first day of class, and you can purchase them through [Bowdoin's eCampus bookstore](#).

Have questions? Reach out – we are happy to help.

Email: askacademics@bowdoin.edu