



Academic Counseling FAQs

1. When will I get my fall class schedule? How will it all work?

All new students are required to complete a Canvas module called *Registration Readiness*. This module leads students step-by-step through the [O&R Guide to Course Registration](#). The *Registration Readiness* module teaches students about the core curriculum and course requirements for specific majors, provides guidance about placement assessments, and gives Course Preference Form instructions.

The Academic Counseling team will review each student's Course Preference Form, pre-register all students for one or more required fall courses, and recommend other courses based on major interests, minor interests, completed placement assessments and previous credits earned/pending credits. When you attend your O&R session, you will work with an advisor who will help you complete your fall semester registration. Once you build your schedule, you will not be able to make any changes to your schedule until August 1, unless you may need changes due to a change in major, athletic schedule conflict, or updated placement assessments.

2. What is the First Year Experience and what does it mean for my fall registration?

All first-year students need to register for the requirements associated with St. Thomas's First Year Experience for fall semester. Check out our [First Year Experience website](#) for additional details. Specific registration details include:

- **FYEX 100, Foundations for College Success** (1 credit). All students need to be enrolled in this class. Here is the course description: Foundations for College Success is a first-year experience course designed to provide students with knowledge and skills that will help them succeed at St. Thomas. This one-credit course covers a range of topics, including: campus engagement, well-being, academic success, financial literacy, career and vocation, sustainability, global and intercultural competence, and spirituality.
- Second, all first-year students will participate in a learning community and must choose either a **Living Learning Community** or a **Theme-Based Learning Community**.
 - The Living Learning Communities (LLC): LLC students will live near each other in a campus residence hall and will be registered for at least one common course during fall semester. Students had the opportunity to indicate their LLC preference on the Housing Preference Form. It's important to remember that not all LLCs provide the appropriate level of enrollment for all academic majors at St. Thomas. An academic advisor will provide you with guidance about these details. The fall 2023 LLC options are:
 - Aquinas Scholars Honors
 - Catholic Studies: Telos
 - Economic Tools for Policy & Business
 - eMedia
 - Emerging Scholars for JUSTICE
 - Healthcare Professions
 - Helping Professions
 - Nursing
 - Opus Business



- Pathways to Engineering (P2E)
- Psychology and Neuroscience (PAN)
- Sustainability

Theme Based Learning Communities (TBLC): In most cases, commuter students or resident students who choose the Theme Based Learning Community (TBLC) option will register for two courses in one theme, which includes an accompanying lab (for activities). The themes for fall 2023 are:

- Challengemaking for the Common Good
 - Culture, Social Transformation, and the Common Good
 - Environmental Sustainability and the Common Good
 - Human Well-Being [Flourishing] and the Common Good
 - Social Justice for the Common Good
- **Important note:** Students should choose the options most interesting to them and should not worry about making any mistakes related to LLCs or TBLCs. An advisor will provide additional information at the O&R program.

4. Do I need to take a placement assessment?

Maybe! Some students will take multiple assessments, and some students will not take any assessments. Please review information in the *Registration Readiness* module in Canvas.

5. How many credits do students take in their first semester?

The typical number of credits for a freshman in their first semester is 17 credits. However, depending on the major, ROTC and extracurricular activity participation, the number of credits may vary slightly. The maximum number of credits a student can register for in their first semester is 18 credits. Enrollment in 12 credits or more is required to maintain full-time student status.