

First Year Student Newsletter

Volume 14.8

Summer 2010

Produced by
Julie L. Amon, Assistant Dean for First Year Students
Steven P. Scherger, Coordinator for First-Year Student Academic Affairs
and the Office of Undergraduate Studies

Greetings from the Dean

For the Class of 2013, this is the final first year student newsletter you will receive. I hope that your first year at CWRU proved to be a rewarding experience in which you learned a lot about yourself, were exposed to new ideas that both challenged and excited you, and made connections you will always cherish. Steven and I enjoyed getting to know you over the year and are still happy to chat with you as you move beyond your first year.

As rising second year students you are about to take the next steps in your education at CWRU. To help you with the transition to your second year, this newsletter provides some helpful reminders to prepare you for a successful launch of the Fall Semester. Have a fun, relaxing, and productive summer!

Advising and Financial Holds

It is always best to check your status on SIS to verify that there are no holds on your account. If you have an **Advising Hold**, you likely have not registered for your Fall Semester courses and will need to contact your Faculty Advisor to schedule an advising appointment before the hold can be removed. If there is a **Financial Hold** on your account, contact the Bursar's Office to determine the reason for the hold and what steps you need to take to have it removed. If you have questions or concerns about how to secure financial resources for 2010-2011, contact Nancy Issa in the Financial Aid Office (nancy.issa@case.edu, Yost 417A, 216-368-4530).

Inside this Issue

- Fall 2010 Registration & Holds
- Fall 2010 University Seminars & Your Writing Portfolio
- Transition to Upperclass Deans
- Major Declaration
- Academic Standing
- Summer Off-Campus Study
- Fall Proficiency Exams
- Educational Services for Students
- Student Employment
- Book Rentals
- Meal Plan Changes

Fall 2010 Registration, the Drop/Add Period, and Course Withdraws

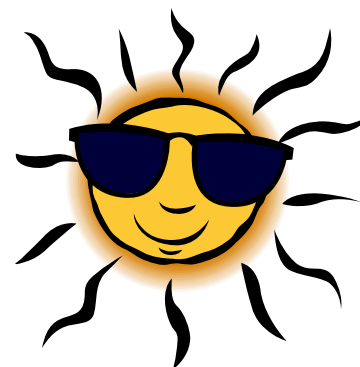
Registration for Fall 2010 began for first year students on Friday, April 16, and remains open throughout the summer. Therefore, you may make changes to your schedule if you happen to change your major, your academic focus, or simply learn about a course that interests you. You can continue to make changes to your schedule during the Fall 2010 Drop/Add Period, which occurs during the first two weeks of classes and ends **Friday, September 3. Before the September 3rd deadline you must verify that your schedule is correct on SIS. Changes and corrections will not be permitted after the end of Drop/Add.**

Also keep in mind that as you enter your second year at CWRU, you will no longer be under the First Year Withdraw policy. What this means for you is if you withdraw from a course after the end of the Drop/Add Period a mark of "W" will appear on your transcript. Furthermore, the deadline for course withdrawals will now be the eleventh Friday of the semester, which for Fall 2010 is November 5.

Fall 2010 University Seminars

If you are still looking to take a University Seminar for Fall 2010, be sure to check the Schedule of Classes for availability. There are still several sections of USSY and USSO courses that have openings, which range from 1-2 seats to newly added sections that have 17 seats. At this time there are no openings in any USNA courses, but continue to check for updates to course listings and enrollments throughout the summer.

When selecting your University Seminars, remember that students must complete two seminars from two different topical areas by the end of their fourth semester. (Students who took a topical First Year Seminar [FSNA, FSSO, FSSY] cannot take a University Seminar of the same topical area.)



Your Upperclass Deans

As rising first year students, you will be moving on to many exciting opportunities over the next three years at CWRU. Steven Scherger and I have truly enjoyed getting to know you and we hope that your first year experience proved rewarding. During your second year, we encourage you to continue to explore who you are, how to get where you want to go, and how you fit into the university community.

During your second year and beyond, the Upperclass Deans in the Office of Undergraduate Studies will work with you and other members of the university community to provide an environment that supports you in the achievement of your current academic and personal goals, as well as your future endeavors.

Your assignment to an upperclass dean is based upon your last name. Students are assigned to the deans as follows:

A-G Asst. Dean Nancy Dilulio
H-O Asst. Dean Lynmarie Hamel
P-Z Dean Jeffrey Wolcowitz (Will support this group of students until new Asst. Dean is named.)

And of course, you are always welcome to keep in touch with Steven and me as you continue your studies at CWRU.

Major Declaration

Most students declare a major by the end of their first year, and many of those who have not submitted the paperwork to officially declare have decided upon one.

If you are a student who knows, or is fairly certain of, your major(s), but have not completed the paperwork, you need to submit the declaration form either this summer or when you return to campus in the fall. There really is no benefit to delay your declaration. If you are reluctant to declare because you do not want to lose your SAGES advisor, keep in mind that you can continue to meet with her or him for guidance. The advantages to declaring are access to an advisor who is a specialist in your field of interest, greater access to information about research opportunities and department events, and a stronger connection to faculty and other students who are interested in the same topics as you. Finally, keep in mind that if you change your mind in the future, you can always declare a different major(s).

If you are undecided about a major, that is okay. However, you need to engage in the exploration process. Be proactive in making a decision by speaking with department representatives, faculty in areas that interest you, counselors in the Career Center, and your new upperclass dean. Dean Amon and Mr. Scherger also remain available to help you explore.

The steps for declaring a major(s) are

1. Obtain a Major Declaration Form in the Office of Undergraduate Studies, Sears 357. Take the form to the department representative in your intended major for his/her signature and assignment of an advisor.
2. Students interested in Pre-Medicine/Pre-Dentistry and/or Pre-Law should mark the respective boxes on the declaration form.
3. Once completed, bring the yellow copy of the form to the Office of Undergraduate Studies, Sears 357. **The declaration of a major is not official unless it is submitted to the Office of Undergraduate Studies.**

Academic Standing

Academic Standing for the spring semester has been finalized and the outcome of academic standing review can be viewed on SIS. Most students are in Good Academic Standing and will not see a standing listed. However, other students have been placed on Probation Incomplete, Academic Probation, Ineligible to Register, or Academic Separation. Additionally, some students Returned to Good Academic Standing. Students with an academic status other than Good Academic Standing have been contacted by email. If you have questions about your academic status, please feel free to contact me or Mr. Scherger, or your upper class Dean.

As you move to your second year at CWRU, it is important that you remain aware of the requirements to maintain good academic standing. This is especially important this year as not only does your status as a student place you under different requirements that must be adhered to, but as was announced this past December, new requirements for all students will be fully implemented this year.

Starting with the Fall 2010 Semester, all full-time, upper class students will be required to earn a minimum of **2.000 GPA** and **12 credit hours** each semester in order to maintain good academic standing.

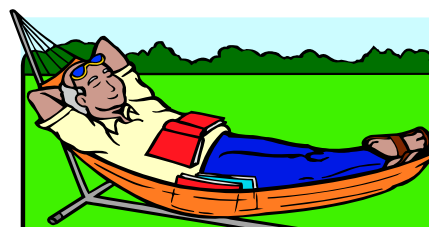
For more information about these new requirements visit <http://www.case.edu/provost/ugstudies/NewAcademicStandingRegulationsFall2010.pdf>

SAGES Writing Portfolio

All students are expected to submit a completed SAGES Writing Portfolio by the semester after their last University Seminar. Failure to fulfill this requirement can delay future course registration and graduation!

Students who do not plan properly will find it difficult to meet the requirements of the Writing Portfolio as you will be required to submit past work from each of your seminars: an essay from your First Seminar, an essay from a University Seminar, and a research essay from a University Seminar. For further instructions regarding the SAGES Writing portfolio visit <http://www.case.edu/sages/portfolio.htm>.

One of the best preparations you can take now for the Writing Portfolio is to secure your papers. In the past, a number of students have had difficulties submitting their essays because the electronic copies of them were lost due to computer malfunctions and lost computer drives. To prevent these losses, it is highly recommended that you save copies of your papers in filer folders at filer.case.edu. Each student is given 500MB of free space through the service, which should be more than enough to store all of your SAGES papers, as well as essays and assignments from other courses you may want to keep for future applications to professional and graduate schools.



Proficiency Exams
August 19 – 21

Proficiency examinations allow students to receive credit for CWRU courses. These examinations are optional and are intended for students who have studied a subject independently or who did not receive AP, IB, or transfer credit for a course they completed. For students who pass a proficiency examination, proficiency credit will be indicated on the transcript by the mark, "PR", but no letter grade is given and proficiency credit does not count toward GPA.

CHEM 105, 106, 111 - - Friday, August 20, 2010, 3:15 p.m. – 6:15 p.m. (Clapp 201). Students wishing to take an exam should email Professor Mike Kenney (Michael.kenney@case.edu) at least 48-hours in advance.

ENGR 131 - - Saturday, August 21, 2010, 12:30 - 3:30 p.m. (Olin 313). *The exam will be given in Java. Students wishing to take the exam must sign up for it at least 48 hours in advance by emailing Professor Xiaowei Sun (xiaowei.sun@case.edu).* Details on the exam registration and content appear at <http://vorlon.case.edu/~xws14/ENGR131/Proficiency.htm>

MATH 121, 122, 201, 223, 224 - - Thursday, August 19, 2010, 12:30 - 3:30 p.m. (Yost 300). *Register in advance for the Mathematics Proficiency Exam by contacting Professor Chris Butler at least 24 hours prior to the exam. Email: chris@case.edu.*

PHYS 115, 116, 121, 122, 221 - - Thursday, August 19, 2010, 3:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. (Rockefeller 301). *Register for Physics Proficiency Exam in advance by contacting Professor Gary Chottiner at least 24 hour prior to the exam. Email: gsc2@case.edu. More information, including formula sheets and sample exams, can be found at <http://www.phys.cwru.edu/undergrad/Proficiency%20Exams/>*

Summer Off-Campus Study

If you are taking courses at another institution this summer and plan to transfer them back to CWRU, but have not submitted an [Off-Campus Study Request Form](#), you still need to do this before your transfer credit will be evaluated by the Office of Undergraduate Studies. In addition, you must also submit a [Special Request Form](#) asking for an extension of the deadline.

Once your Off-Campus Study Request is approved, you need to make arrangements to have your transcript sent to CWRU as soon as your final grade(s) are posted. Transcripts should be sent to Assistant Dean Claudia Anderson, Office of Undergraduate Studies, Sears Building, Room 357, 10900 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44106-7028.

If you have questions about Summer Off-Campus Study, please direct them to Dean Claudia Anderson at cca2@case.edu or 216-368-2928.

Meal Plan Changes
July 1 – September 3

Students can switch meal plans for the Fall 2010 Semester beginning July 1. Changes can be made through September 3. Students who want to change their Meal Plan should log onto CaseOneCard.com and check available plans under the "MealPlan" tab. At checkout, students will receive a confirmation of the change request by email.

Educational Services for Students

Looking for a fresh start to your approach to academics in your second year? Want to re-tool your study skills? Educational Services for Students (ESS) provides individual consultations to address time-management, study skills, and test preparation.

ESS enhances the learning process through advising, advocacy, and opportunities for academic growth and self-improvement. ESS helps students to understand their individual learning strengths and to improve skills essential for academic success through academic counseling and advising, seminars, computer-assisted instruction, diagnostic testing, and peer-assistance programs.

To view the full range of services provided by ESS, which includes individual counseling, SI Sessions, Peer Tutoring, the SAGES Writing Crew, and much more visit <http://studentaffairs.case.edu/education/resources/overview.html>

New for Fall 2010:
Book Rentals for CWRU Courses!

Renting textbooks will be a new option at the university bookstore this upcoming year. When visiting the bookstore, just look for books with a "rent me" sticker on them. You can save over 50% compared to new books.

Students can pay for rental books with cash, credit card, Barnes & Noble gift cards, or Case Cash; however, a credit card will need to be on file to ensure you return the textbook. Rented books can be marked up with notes and highlighted.

Work Study Job Fair
Friday, September 3, 2010, 12:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Thwing Ballroom

All students who have been awarded Federal Work Study as part of a financial aid award are invited to attend the 8th annual Work Study Job Fair to investigate on- and off-campus employment opportunities. If you have been awarded Federal Work Study, be sure to watch for announcements regarding how to participate in the Job Fair during Welcome Days.

Students without a Federal Work Study Award may visit the Office of Student Employment after September 3 to review available job opportunities and complete paperwork. The Office is located in Yost Hall 410A and is open weekdays between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

For more information about student employment opportunities, students should visit <http://finaid.case.edu/StudentEmployment.aspx?Home&Level=0>

**Have A Great
Summer!**