



# ACADEMICS AT IWU

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Director of Academic Advising



## WHAT IS FIRST-YEAR ADVISING?

First-Year Advising (FYA) is a program that *facilitates a successful transition* from high school to university life in which an IWU faculty member *assists the student in academic planning* and *offers advice concerning academic decisions* a student must make throughout his or her undergraduate career.



## WHO ARE THE FIRST-YEAR ADVISORS?

- Faculty members who volunteer and are trained to work with first-year students
- Assigned to each Gateway Colloquium course or is the Gateway instructor
- Focus is on liberal arts foundation (general education credits)
- Work to integrate the students into the IWU community
- Follow template for recommended course of study for first three semesters of each major
- Select majors have assigned mentors/liaisons



# TRANSITIONS

- Academic environment
  - Rigor of IWU
  - First B or C
  - Dropping a course
- Living environment
  - Being away from home
  - Establishing/re-defining relationships
  - Self-regulation
    - Studying
    - Sleeping
    - Extracurricular
    - Social Networks/Texting



## ROLE OF THE FIRST-YEAR ADVISOR

- Assist first year students with academic decisions
- Provide GUIDANCE in selection of courses
- Monitor anxiety about registration process
- Promote reasonable balance of work
- Encourage strategic planning for cohesive academic plan
- Facilitate assistance with academic difficulty
- Direct access to resources (e.g., psychological difficulty, career counseling, writing skills)



## ROLE OF THE STUDENT

- Come to appointments on-time
- Prepare for appointments
- Keep organized records
- Provide accurate information regarding interests and abilities
- Be an active partner in the advising relationship
- Follow through on referrals
- Take responsibility



## ROLE OF THE FAMILY MEMBER

- Be available to support and encourage your student
- Encourage your student to do things they can for him/herself
- Re-direct your student's concerns and questions to their FYA
- Respect the role of the advisors
- Remind your student of the various resources available to assist on campus
- Utilize the Family Member Checklist on the Advising Center Website
- Understand FERPA



# FYA ADVISING PROCESS OVERVIEW

- Email from the Office of the Registrar
- Turning Titan: New Student Orientation
  - Group meeting with family members and the FYA
  - 2 group advising sessions with the students
  - 1 individual advising appointment with the student
- Fall Group Session and Individual Appointment for Spring/May Term Registration
- Spring Group Session and Individual Appointment for Fall Registration
- Individual appointments as needed



## WHAT'S AFTER FYA?

- Second/Sophomore Year: Transition to a faculty advisor in their major department.
- Undecided students: Either stay with their FYA or are assigned to the Director of Academic Advising.





# LIBERAL ARTS EDUCATION

A liberal education at Illinois Wesleyan fosters:

- Creativity
- Critical thinking
- Effective communication
- Strength of character
- Spirit of inquiry



# GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

## The Basics

- Major
- Minor (Optional)
- General Education Requirements
- Electives (varies)
- 2.0/4.0 GPA
- +/- Grading system

## Units Required

- Bachelor of Arts = 32 units
- Bachelor of Science = 32 units
- Bachelor of Science in Nursing = 32 units
- Bachelor of Fine Arts = 32 units
- Bachelor of Music = 35 units
- Bachelor of Music Education = 36 units



# GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

- Gateway Colloquium
  - Analysis of Values
  - The Arts
  - Contemporary Social Institutions
  - Cultural and Historical Change
  - Formal Reasoning\*
  - Intellectual Traditions
  - Literature
  - Second Language\*
  - The Natural Sciences\*
  - Physical Education
  - Encountering Global Diversity Flag
  - Encountering U.S. Diversity Flag
  - 2 Writing Intensive Courses
- \*The # of units required for these categories varies by degree.



# SAMPLE SCHEDULES

## Biology

Class	Units
Gateway	1
Biology 101	1.25
Chemistry 201	1.25
History 151	1
TOTAL	4.5

## Business

Class	Units
Gateway	1
Economics 100	1
Math 110	1
French 101	1
TOTAL	4

## Nursing

Class	Units
Gateway	1
Biology 107	1.25
Chemistry 110	1.25
Human Nutrition 230	1
TOTAL	4.5

## Psychology

Class	Units
Psychology 100	1
Biology 107	1.25
English 101	1
Spanish 201	1
TOTAL	4.25

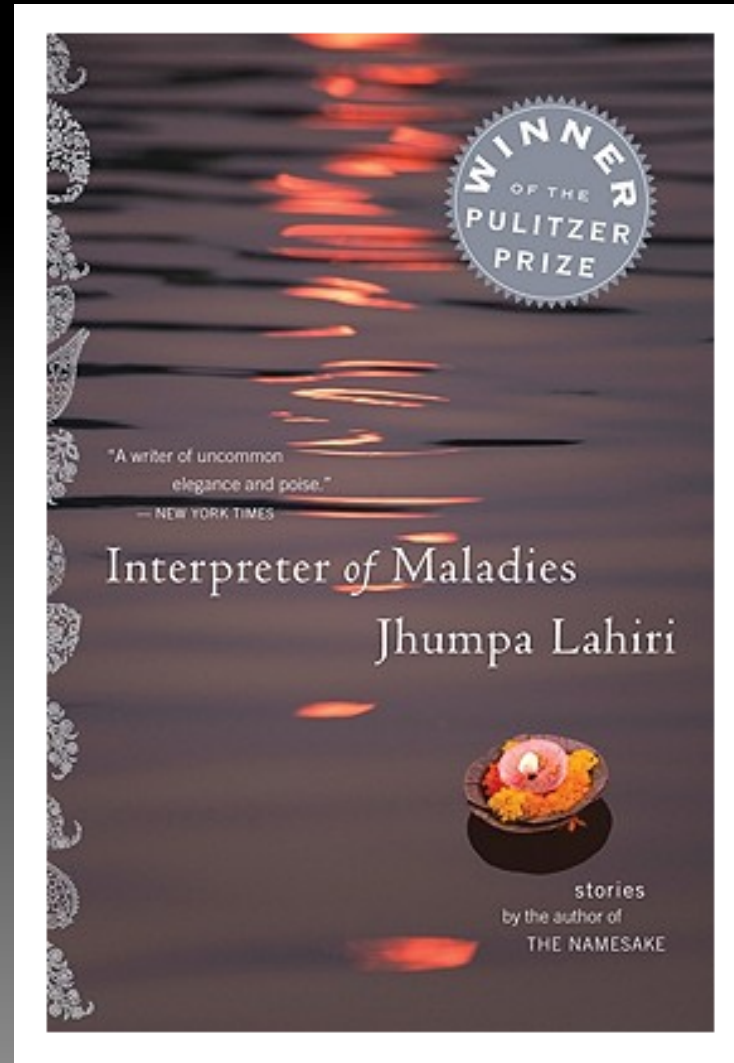


# BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

- Independent Study
- Honors Research
- The May Term: emphasis on immersion in learning
- Internships
- Off-campus study: Urban Studies, United Nations Semester, Washington Semester
- Study Abroad



# SUMMER READING PROGRAM





# ACADEMIC ADVISING CENTER

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