Academics at IWU
Presented by Chandra Shipley, MSEd
Director of Academic 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.
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

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<tr>
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<th>Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gateway</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biology 101</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chemistry 201</td>
<td>1.25</td>
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<tr>
<td>History 151</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
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### Business

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<tr>
<td>Economics 100</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math 110</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French 101</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
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### Nursing

<table>
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<tbody>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biology 107</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chemistry 110</td>
<td>1.25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Human Nutrition 230</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
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### Psychology

<table>
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<tbody>
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<tr>
<td>Biology 107</td>
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<tr>
<td>English 101</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish 201</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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
Academic Advising Center

http://www.iwu.edu/advising/
advising@iwu.edu

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