



Summer Registration Fact Sheet

You will need to register for 3 six-credit courses. You are already pre-registered for one class, the First Year Seminar, based on your preference list so you only have to worry about the other two!

It is really important to understand that you have twelve terms to take all the classes you want. There is no need to cram the toughest classes into your first term. Especially when you are just beginning to acclimatize yourself to an entirely new life at Carleton, you do not want to unduly stress yourself with a heavy workload. Some lethal combinations include two classes with lab requirements or taking two classes that have heavy reading loads. Classes that are perennially difficult for all students, especially if English is NOT your first language, are Introduction to Psychology and Introduction to Biology. (A lot of new vocabulary and terms to memorize!)

For your first term at Carleton, you might want to balance things by taking one class that emphasizes writing, a math or science class and a language class. Balancing your classes is incredibly helpful in studying. Having classes that emphasize different skills creates varied study techniques. If you're tired of doing math problems, you could simply switch to reading that novel or practicing French grammar!

“Try to take the most random classes possible in your first term here because some of the most random classes turned out to be my best classes”

-Kilang Yanger '06

“While coming to college is a lot about challenging yourself and getting out of your comfort zone, I would definitely take one class that you know you are likely to be good at. If you are a math whiz, it would make sense to take one math class your first term here. If English is not your first language, take your time before you take an advanced literature class that will require lots of academic writing. Seeing yourself doing well in classes is a real confidence booster and it helps tide you into Carleton academics nicely.”

-Dashini Jeyathurai '08

“Do not take three classes that involve heavy reading and writing loads fall term freshman year. A bad combo would be something like intro psych and intro bio because they both need lots of memorizing. You WILL regret it. Definitely get in touch with the international students here if you're not sure about the classes that you have chosen for yourself.”

-Varsha Seetharam '08

Should you have any questions about registration, please feel free to contact Gnagna Lam '12 at lamg@carleton.edu or (1)507-222-7488.

All freshmen will complete registration of the Web. For more information, visit:

<https://apps.carleton.edu/newstudents/registration/>

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Should I take English 109 or a First Year Seminar?

A frequent cause of concern for incoming freshmen is whether to take an English 109 class or to take a first year seminar. English 109 aims to introduce students to the kind of writing that is expected of them at Carleton. It pays particular attention to helping students develop strong, coherent and persuasive arguments. In order to make a sound decision, you should take the **English 109: Self-Placement Inventory** that can be found at https://apps.carleton.edu/campus/doc/forms/writing_inventory/

First year seminars are “designed to introduce students to the liberal arts approach to learning and encourage critical thinking, intellectual independence and initiative in a setting that invites individual participation.” They are generally geared towards stronger writers.

Even if you have decided that you will be pursuing a major that does not need you to be an effective writer (there is no such a field!), you will benefit from taking ENGL 109, a first year seminar, or both in your first year at Carleton.

2. Do I need to take a language?

Many international students who come to Carleton are able to speak languages from their home countries. You can obtain an exemption from the language requirement by filling out the necessary form and getting tested (if need be) when you get here. Nonetheless, there is much to be gained from a foreign language especially in a world where we frequently cross borders. It's also a wonderfully rewarding intellectual enterprise. If you are hoping to eventually go on a Carleton off campus program after your freshman year, you will discover that a number of the programs are language-based. For instance, the programs in Madrid, Mali, Paris, Mexico, Tianjin and Moscow are conducted in the respective foreign languages like Spanish, French, Chinese, and Russian.

However, if you are starting a new language and begin at the 101 level in the fall, be aware that you will only be done with that language next fall when you complete the 204 class. In this time period, you'll have to work your other class choices around your language class. This can get a little frustrating at times!

3. Do I need to take all Placement Tests?

You can find all the information you need about placement tests at <https://apps.carleton.edu/newstudents/registration/placement/>. There is no general answer to this question. What placement tests you take depend on what you as an individual plan to study at Carleton.

4. Can I enroll in an upper level class if the college has granted me IB or AP credits in that area?

Visit http://www.carleton.edu/campus/registrar/catalog/prior_credits.html for all information about prior credit policies at Carleton. This page tells you how many credits you receive for specific scores in the IB or AP examinations. It also tells you how each department looks at these prior credits. Some departments will allow you to take upper level classes. Others will encourage you to save certain classes for your sophomore year even if your scores make you eligible to take the class your first year here.

5. How can I make choosing my classes easier for myself?

On the new student website, you can use the course navigator to help you choose classes that match your areas of interest. It will also help you make sure that your classes do not overlap:

<https://apps.carleton.edu/newstudents/registration/navigator/>

Make use of the Carleton new student website. It has all the information you need!