REGISTRATION AND COURSE LOAD

Academic Advisement

To enhance Baylor’s learning environment, the university’s undergraduate academic advisors offer services designed to help students formulate academic goals and develop their personal potential. In addition to selecting classes, students work with professional and faculty advisors to review general degree plans and audits, find and develop specific academic plans within a major or program, and achieve personal goals.

To assist students in making important life decisions, advisors and mentors also connect students with departmental and campus resources as well as community and professional opportunities.

Students are assigned to academic advisors by classification, major, and program throughout the undergraduate experience. Advisor assignments are available on each student’s BearWeb (http://www.baylor.edu/BearWeb/) account under Student Academic Services->Advisement->Advisement Contact Information (http://www.baylor.edu/advising/).

Any student who needs assistance concerning advising procedures at Baylor should begin by contacting the Office of University Advisement in the Paul L. Foster Success Center (PLFSC) (phone: (254) 710-7280 or email: University_Advisement@baylor.edu). Students in transition from one college or school to another and those considering a program in another college or school should go to University Advisement.

Advising guidelines and resources are available at www.baylor.edu/advising (http://www.baylor.edu/advising/).

Course Load

The normal academic load per semester for undergraduate students is five courses. The maximum course load is eighteen semester hours except in the School of Music where nineteen hours are permitted. See https://registrar.web.baylor.edu/records-services/enrollment-status (https://registrar.web.baylor.edu/records-services/enrollment-status/) for details.

Students are expected to carry a normal load unless they must do an excessive amount of outside work or present other reasons acceptable to the appropriate academic dean and advisor. The average student should reduce the load to four courses if he or she works as much as four hours daily. Each student is responsible for limiting his or her program in light of the foregoing statements.

Schedules for more than eighteen hours will not be permitted except in the following situations. One course may be added to the normal load if the student:

1. has a “B” average on all courses completed and for the immediately preceding semester,
2. has a 3.25 GPA for the preceding semester, or
3. is a last-term senior in good standing.

This privilege will be withdrawn if grades drop, or if health seems to be threatened. A desire to graduate early is not, in itself, sufficient reason to request the privilege of a greater than normal load. Occasionally, last-term seniors with a superior average will be permitted to carry a maximum of twenty-one hours if it will permit graduation in that term.

Exceptions to the minimum credit hours for an undergraduate student may be made when:

A student is registered for internship, practicum, or cooperative education activities that require full-time work and will count toward completion of the student’s degree program (upon the request of a student’s academic dean).

Summer School at Baylor

Maximum credit for students enrolled in the two traditional summer terms is eight hours per term or sixteen hours total. For students who enroll in the Minimester, a maximum of four additional hours of credit may be earned. Thus, students who take the maximum load for all three terms (Minimester plus two regular summer terms) may earn a total of 20 hours.

Registration Policies and Procedures

Registration is completed according to the procedures and time schedule outlined on the web under “Register for Classes” (https://registrar.web.baylor.edu/enrollment-registration/steps-registration (https://registrar.web.baylor.edu/enrollment-registration/steps-registration/)). Students must be officially enrolled in a course by the fifth class day of a fall or spring semester in order to earn credit in the course.

Pass-Fail Registration

With the permission of the dean of the appropriate academic unit, a student may elect the option to enroll pass-fail for one standard graded course per term. Such courses may be used for general elective credit only and may total no more than eighteen semester hours toward an undergraduate degree. Business school students may not register for pass-fail credit in any course, including Lifetime Fitness, required under the B.B.A. degree program.

A change in course registration from graded to pass-fail, or from pass-fail to graded, may be made only during the period in which courses may be added.

Audit Registration

Students who wish to take a course and not earn academic credit may be eligible to audit the course with the written permission of the dean of the appropriate academic unit. If approved, the Undergraduate Registration Petition form is completed by the student and the dean of the appropriate academic unit and sent to the Office of the Registrar. The fee for auditing a course is $390. There is no additional fee for students paying flat-rate tuition.

Laboratory and applied courses may not be audited. The student is entitled only to listen to lectures and class discussions. Audit enrollment is subject to the instructor’s willingness to have nonparticipating students. Auditors are not permitted in certain courses as specified by the individual departments; they are ordinarily not permitted in seminars or writing and correspondence courses. Auditing a course allows for library access and does not afford the use of other ID accessible facilities.

Courses taken for audit may not exclude a student seeking credit, may not be repeated at a later date for credit, may not be changed in status.
after the registration period, and are not considered part of the course load.

**Post-Baccalaureate Registration**

All post baccalaureate students must follow the same registration procedures as undergraduates, regardless of whether or not they are seeking a second degree (refer to [https://registrar.web.baylor.edu/enrollment-registration/steps-registration](https://registrar.web.baylor.edu/enrollment-registration/steps-registration)). In order to register through BearWeb for a course that requires a prerequisite, students must contact the department. Students deciding to audit courses must follow procedures for all students as stated in the catalog.

**Self-Paced Online Course Registration**

A maximum of fifteen credit hours may be completed through self-paced online courses to meet the needs of Baylor students, particularly those who are not residents. In exceptional situations, the dean may allow self-paced online courses for students who are residents.

**Eligibility**

A student must be a previously enrolled full-time Baylor student, a currently enrolled part-time Baylor student, a graduating senior,* a High School Accelerate student, or a non-degree seeking student before he/she may register. Full-time Baylor students must be in their final undergraduate semester in order to be eligible. Baylor students must have a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0. If the Baylor student is on academic probation, he/she must have at least a 2.5 cumulative GPA. Baylor students may take no more than three self-paced online courses during one semester. High School Accelerate students may not take more than one self-paced online course during a semester. No self-paced online courses may be taken during the Minimester, summer terms, or during Wintermester.

*a graduating senior is defined as a student with twenty-one or fewer hours remaining and who has filed for graduation with their respective Dean’s Office.

**Registration**

Baylor students may only be registered by the student's degree-granting unit. High School Accelerate students may only be registered by the Accelerate Advising Office in the Office of Undergraduate Admissions. Non-degree seeking students must register through the College of Arts & Sciences Dean's office.

**Tuition**

The tuition for Baylor students and non-degree seeking students is calculated at the standard tuition rate. Accelerate students will be calculated at their tuition rate.

**Time limits**

Courses for Baylor students may begin as early as the 6th class day and must begin no later than the end of the 7th week of the semester. High school Accelerate students must register before the semester begins. Courses must be completed by the last day of final exams.

**Post Registration Changes**

Changes in schedules may be made through BearWeb ([http://www.baylor.edu/BearWeb/](http://www.baylor.edu/BearWeb/)) through the 12th class day of a fall or spring semester. Beginning the 13th class day, students may drop classes, through BearWeb ([http://www.baylor.edu/BearWeb/](http://www.baylor.edu/BearWeb/)), once they have approval from their advisor, through the 50th class day (see Academic Calendar for summer dates). Permission from the appropriate dean’s office is required to add or register after the fifth class day (see Academic Calendar for Summer dates).

**Class Attendance**

While Baylor University is classified as a non-attendance taking institution, attendance is expected and evidenced by registration in a course offered by the institution. Attendance at class meetings is essential to academic success. Interaction with faculty members and fellow students provides the best opportunity for learning information and for exercising skills necessary to gain competencies in the subject. Classroom discussion also enriches understanding beyond the boundaries of the specific course and develops students’ analytical facility and ability to communicate ideas effectively. Baylor University (the “University”) expects each student to take full advantage of his or her educational experience by developing personal responsibility for class attendance.

Student attendance must be recorded through the census date of each term (the twelfth class day of the fall or spring terms).

Specific policies for attendance are established by the academic units within the university. Faculty members may establish more stringent requirements regarding attendance, punctuality, and participation. Any attendance requirements and penalties for excessive absences will be set forth in the syllabus for each course. The student bears the responsibility for the effect that absences may have upon class participation, announced and unannounced examinations, written assignments, reports, papers, and other means of evaluating performance in a course.

If a student’s required participation in a University-sponsored activity causes the student to miss class, this is ordinarily considered an absence that is counted against a student in the context of an applicable attendance policy. However, if in this event the student seeks to make arrangements prior to the absence to complete scheduled assignments, the faculty member will work with the student to allow for the completion of missed coursework and assignments.

If a varsity student athlete is required to participate in an official athletic competition and must miss class in order to participate (or travel to participate) in that competition, this absence is ordinarily considered to be excused and should not be counted against the student athlete in the context of an applicable attendance policy. Moreover, provided that the student athlete seeks to make arrangements prior to the absence to complete scheduled assignments, the faculty member will work with the student to allow for the completion of missed coursework and assignments.

In the event of serious illness, accident, or death in the family, students should contact their professors as soon as they are able. When such a crisis prohibits a student from being able to make immediate contact, the office of the Chaplain notifies faculty when information is available; the Chaplain does not, however, pursue official verification of such reports. Requests by faculty to verify the nature of an absence should be made to the student upon the student's return. Students are usually allowed to make up classwork and/or tests missed that result from such crises. As these instances are academic matters, any dishonesty on the part of a student in such a situation is considered a violation of the University Honor Code.

Class absences are one of the early signs that a student may be experiencing academic, personal, or emotional challenges or distress. Resources in the Paul L. Foster Success Center and Counseling Center
are available for students who are experiencing difficulties related to class attendance.