

# LENOIR~RHYNE UNIVERSITY

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## SOME ADVISING AND REGISTRATION TIPS 2010-2011

Lenoir-Rhyne University operates on a two-semester calendar system. The fall and spring semesters are approximately sixteen weeks in length (including a formal period for required examinations at the end of the term). **Courses** are scheduled in blocs throughout the week, Monday through Friday, with separate **sections** running throughout the day, beginning at 8:00 am, and into the evening. A traditional three credit-hour class is taught in fifty minute segments three times a week (Monday, Wednesday, and Friday—or MWF) or in one hour and fifteen minute segments twice a week (Tuesday and Thursday—or TR). A four credit hour class is taught usually in one hour and ten minute segments three times a week or in one hour and forty minute segments twice a week. Evening sections may be scheduled in longer blocs, meeting less frequently during the week. Normally, Adult students will populate the evening classes and traditional students will select the day sections, but students may select any available times to take courses. *However, first-year students are **strongly** discouraged from choosing eight-week “mini-term” sections or fully online classes.*

LR students meet degree requirements for graduation by satisfactorily completing a minimum of 128 semester hours (a few majors require more hours), including all required courses both in the core curriculum and their major field(s) of study. Lenoir-Rhyne has developed a new core curriculum beginning fall term 2010. All new students beginning summer 2010 or later are required to meet these revised requirements. A complete program includes the **New Core Curriculum requirements** (<http://www.lr.edu/admissions/FYE/advising-guide>), **and also technical requirements, major field requirements, and general electives** (<http://registrar.lr.edu/catalog>).

All first-time, first-year students or transfers who have not completed at least 26 hours of transfer credits (dually enrolled college credits while in high school, AP, and/or IB credits do not count toward this limit) will complete “first-year seminars” each semester of their first year at L-R (2.5 credit hours each term), FYE 191-192. These are team-taught classes focusing upon various issues; students will be able to choose a topic most interesting to them. Often, the topic will continue into the second semester, furnishing you the opportunity to explore specific issues of interest in much deeper ways.

In addition to the first-year seminars, you are expected to complete several other “foundations” courses before the end of your second year (or by the time you have completed 64 credit hours). You are expected to complete ENG 131 (or have the requisite Advanced Placement scores) by the end of your first year. CSC 050, Fundamental Computing Competencies, a zero-credit “course” that assesses basic computer use skills, is completed through a proficiency exam that must be taken during your first semester. Otherwise, working with your faculty advisor, you may use your discretion in choosing classes, although it is important that certain courses that “build upon themselves” in your major or draw upon your high school development (e.g., Foreign Languages; certain science courses) be selected earlier rather than later. And courses like COM 111, Speech Communication, or Mathematics are often needed as “pre-requisites” to other courses in your major. These, too, should be completed early in your experience at Lenoir-Rhyne.

Placements in courses in some areas of the Core Curriculum require appropriate evidence of proficiency. Regarding **Mathematics**, if your SAT score in math is 500-540 (ACT=20-23), you may take any MAT course except Calculus. If your SAT score in math is 540 or above (ACT=23+), you may register for any introductory MAT course. SAT scores in math below 500 (ACT=20) will require that you complete satisfactorily MAT 090 or MAT 105 before taking a required core math class. (Courses beginning with a “0” do not count as credits toward meeting graduation requirements.) A student may challenge these placement levels by contacting the Math program and scoring appropriately on an internally administered placement

test. Any questions about appropriate placement should be referred to the Mathematics program or the Office of General Education.

Regarding the **Foreign Languages**, incoming First-years students with three or more years of foreign language experience who would like to test out of the language core in either French, German, or Spanish may do so by taking a preliminary placement test in either of these languages on their own computer by sending Dr. Adelia Ruiz, Assistant Professor of Spanish, an e-mail ([Adelia.ruiz@lr.edu](mailto:Adelia.ruiz@lr.edu)) telling her that they want to take the test at least one week ahead of their Jumpstart appointment.

Students who score high enough on these tests will be given a second proctored test in their respective language on campus in August to determine their proficiency in the language. The on-campus test will include an oral component and ask for basic cultural understanding as well. If students show proficiency, they will be exempt from taking core language classes. The exemption does not include credit points. However, as an incentive, if those students are going to take two additional language courses at the 2<sup>nd</sup> year level, six (6) credits for 1<sup>st</sup> year language proficiency will be added to their transcript without any extra charge.

Please read the following about choosing a Foreign Language:

1. Regardless of language taken in high school, students may enroll at the beginning level in any other language.
2. Students should be strongly advised that completing their language requirement during the freshman year is to their advantage, and for anyone who may want to continue their language studies beyond the core, it is actually a requirement.
3. New core requirements indicate that all students must have completed their core language requirement by the end of the sophomore year.
4. Students should consider other languages besides Spanish or ASL. We also offer Chinese, French, and German. Core language classes give students an introduction to another language as well as insight to the culture(s) of the countries where these languages are spoken. Because it takes 2,500 contact hours in any given language to attain relative fluency, language core classes with a total of about 140 contact hours cannot achieve that goal and are not meant to do that. Since Spanish classes will fill up very rapidly, and with the aforesaid in mind, students should really consider other languages as a valid alternative.

Finally, regarding **Writing**, students with scores below 400 in the verbal component of the SAT or below 18 on the ACT will be required to complete ENG 105 prior to entering ENG 131. (ENG 105 counts as general elective credit but 131 must be completed to meet core requirements.) Proficiency in one's writing abilities is a critical component to success in practically all university courses. Regardless of SAT scores, students who demonstrate the need for additional development in writing should strongly consider the ENG 105 course.

Some majors will require **technical requirements** along with the actual program-of-study. Often, these courses are "pre-requisites" that must be completed before certain classes in the actual major, so it is important that you note these requirements and complete these credits in a timely manner.

Each student will complete a **major field of study**. The number of hours required for each program will differ based upon the specific needs of preparation. Professionally oriented majors (e.g., Nursing, Business, Education) will usually be larger programs; liberal arts majors (e.g., History; English; Sociology) tend to be smaller. All majors contain at least thirty credit hours. Some programs, particularly professional and science majors, have significant "pre-requisite" components, and you should review course selection very carefully to remain on track. It will be very important to work with your advisor to make sure the right courses are taken in the right order and at the right time. Generally, students are encouraged to select an introductory level course in their anticipated major as early as appropriate.

Achieving 128 hours in eight standard semesters requires an average of sixteen credit hours per term. As L-R offers multiple one, two, three, and/or four hour courses, your combination of classes may differ significantly from semester to semester. First-year students are strongly encouraged not to overload too many hours in their first term (or too many courses in areas you find more difficult). More than eighteen hours a semester in your first year is normally inappropriate (and more than eighteen hours in a term is considered an overload for tuition purposes, as well). Sections of the various Core Curriculum courses are generally taught across the entire day and during both the MWF and TR timeslots. *Probably the most effective way to “build a schedule” is to start with the first-year seminar that is most interesting to you, then choose courses specifically needed for your particular program (or with Core courses that may be offered at only one or two times), and finally, build in other core classes that have multiple sections.*

*One final word of advice: **make full use of your academic advisor.** Once the fall semester begins, you will have an assigned faculty advisor who is available to furnish advice and help you navigate University life. Ultimately, you own your educational experience but we want to assist however we can to make your academic experience the best possible.*