

LENOIR~RHYNE UNIVERSITY

SOME ADVISING AND REGISTRATION TIPS

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.

L-R 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. The complete program includes **Core Curriculum requirements, major field requirements, and general electives**. These expectations are outlined in the University’s General Catalog (available from the Registrar’s Office and on-line at the University website (<http://www.lr.edu/academics-catalog>)).

First-year students will very likely draw heavily from the University’s Core Curriculum program in building their schedules. Generally, there is no particular order in which these courses are taken. However, core English and Mathematics courses must be taken before the end of one’s second year. You are expected to complete ENG 131 (or have the requisite Advanced Placement scores) by the end of your first semester. LR 101, *The Freshmen Experience*, 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.

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. 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.

Regarding the **Foreign Languages**, students who have completed at least three years of a foreign language in high school may be able to satisfy the core language requirement at L-R beginning with the intermediate level (200-level courses). You must notify the language program of your interest and sit for the placement test. If you successfully complete six hours at the intermediate level, you will then also be granted six more hours credit at the introductory level. Any questions about appropriate placement should be referred to the Foreign Language program.

Finally, regarding **Writing**, students with low scores in the verbal/writing components of the SAT/ACT may be encouraged to complete ENG 105 prior to entering ENG 131. Proficiency in one’s writing abilities is a critical component to success in practically all university courses. Students who demonstrate the need for additional development should strongly consider the ENG 105 course.

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 you to average 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. 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 courses specifically needed for one’s particular program (or with Core courses that may be offered at only one or two times) and then build in the core classes with multiple sections secondly.

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.