

# Drake University Advising & Mentoring Guide



**YOU** are the most important part of your success at Drake! To be successful, you must:

- [Attend class](#)
- [Get involved](#)
- [Ask questions](#)
- [Use your resources](#)

What makes Drake special is the additional staff and faculty in your **Success Network** who provide guidance and support for pursuing all your academic, career, and personal goals.

This guide is designed to help you become familiar with Drake University's advising and mentoring program, graduation requirements, academic majors and pre-professional opportunities, fall course registration and academic

## ADVISING & MENTORING

Drake's advising and mentoring program blends support from Advising Specialists and Faculty Mentors. All students are assigned one Advising Specialist, a professional staff member working in their primary area of study, and a Faculty Mentor, a professor in each of the student's majors, minors, concentrations, and other areas of study.

The advising and mentoring faculty and staff work to help students:

1. Build relationships
2. Support student success
3. Utilize campus resources and technology
4. Create an academic plan of study

You will meet many members of our advising and mentoring team at Summer Orientation. **Advising Specialist** and **Faculty Mentor** assignments are made over the summer, so you may receive an email from them or see their contact details in your Drake information. At Welcome Weekend in August, you will meet **YOUR** Advising Specialist and Faculty Mentor and learn more about their roles and how they will support you.

# Advising & Mentoring

## DRAKE GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

All students, no matter what they choose to study, must complete the same requirements to earn a bachelor's degree at Drake. These requirements include:

Drake Curriculum	Total of 120 Credits	Grade Point Average (GPA)	Academic Major
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General education courses required for graduation</li> <li>Includes First-Year Seminar (FYS), Areas of Inquiry (AOIs) or Honors Program, and an Equity and Inclusion class</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A bachelor's degree at Drake is a minimum of 120 credit hours.</li> <li>Plan to take 14-16 credits each semester over four years (approximately 8 semesters) to reach this total.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A minimum GPA of 2.0 is required to be in good academic standing and graduate from Drake.</li> <li>GPA's are calculated and shared with you at the end of each semester.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Over 100 majors at Drake like biology, history, education, health sciences, business, or journalism</li> <li>Your major will help determine the classes you complete</li> <li>Called your "primary area of study"</li> </ul>

Your Advising Specialist and Faculty Mentor will help you create a plan and track your progress towards meeting these requirements while you are at Drake.

There are a few common questions we are asked when we share this information:

*What if I do not know what I want my major to be?*

That's okay! Drake has "open majors" that allow you to take classes in all different areas and tools to help you explore different majors. Once you find a major you would like to study, tell your Advising Specialist and Faculty Mentor.

*What if I want to pick more than one major?*

That's exciting! Drake's degree and graduation requirements provide flexibility for you to select an additional major(s), minor(s), concentration(s), and/or other programs. We call these "secondary programs." Your Advising Specialist and Faculty Mentor will help you explore second program opportunities that fit your class schedule and goals.

*What if I am planning to go to graduate or professional school?*

That's great! Lots of Drake students have goals to apply to medical, law, engineering, counseling, business, or communications graduate programs after completing their Drake requirements. We call these "pre-professional interests." You will still pick an academic major, and your pre-professional interest will help your Advising Specialist and Faculty Mentor know what graduate or professional areas you are interested in pursuing.

In your Admitted Student Portal, you can share more about your goals for classes, majors, and pre-professional interests by completing the [Course Registration Survey](#).

# Advising & Mentoring

## FALL COURSE REGISTRATION

Completing the Course Registration Survey is REQUIRED before our advising and mentoring team can enroll you in classes for the fall semester. The sooner you complete the survey, the sooner we can register you for classes.

Our advising and mentoring team will use the information you share on your survey to create your fall class schedule. The survey asks you to:

- Confirm your academic major(s)
- Select a pre-professional interest (optional)
- Report math classes you completed in high school
- Share interests in foreign languages, fine arts, honors program, and/or study abroad
- Identify AOs (general education courses) of interest for course registration
- List transfer credits (i.e., college courses you took while in high school, AP/IB/CLEP/GCE credits, etc.)
- Rank your top choices for your First-Year Seminar
- Share any additional information you want our advising and mentoring team to know about you (e.g., your favorite classes in high school, plans to join student groups, participation in athletics, commuter student, etc.)

If you submit your survey and need to make changes, email [orientation@drake.edu](mailto:orientation@drake.edu).

### *Fall Class Schedule*

Two days before your orientation session, you will receive an email with detailed instructions for viewing your fall schedule. Your class schedule will include the following:

- Your **First-Year Seminar**: This is a required first semester course for all first-year students, focusing on writing, critical thinking, and building community.
- Classes for your major(s) and other areas of study: These are courses required or recommended in your first semester for your major(s), minor(s), concentration(s), and/or pre-professional interests.
- **Electives**: These classes will satisfy AOI requirements or Honors Program classes, or they may be about topics you told us you would love to learn more about on your Course Registration Survey.

If schedule changes are needed after orientation, our advising and mentoring team will show you how to share feedback and request schedule changes.

**REMINDER: Complete your Course Registration Survey as soon as possible!**

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## FUTURE ACADEMIC PLANNING

As you begin fall semester, you will work with your Advising Specialist and Faculty Mentor to review your **Plan of Study** that includes:

- **4-Year Guide:** This guide includes the recommended classes to be taken each fall and spring semester to successfully complete the requirements for your major.
- **Degree Checklist:** This includes a listing of all the AOs, major classes, and electives required to complete your degree.

Throughout your first year or two at Drake, you will work with your Advising Specialist and Faculty Mentor to create a personalized **Graduation Plan**, using the 4-Year Guide as a resource. You will be able to include additional major, minor, concentration, and other secondary program requirements as well as classes required for meeting your pre-professional interests in your Graduation Plan. Your Advising Specialist and Faculty Mentor will help you update your Graduation Plan and track progress toward completing your degree on your Degree Checklist.

Your Advising Specialist and Faculty Mentor are just two members of a much larger Success Network you will have at Drake University. We encourage you to meet some of our closest campus partners like Access & Success, Student Counseling, Career Services, and Education Abroad at Summer Orientation. At that time, we will also share more with you about classes, plans of study, and advising and mentoring.

## TECHNOLOGY TIPS

Our advising and mentoring team also wants to help you navigate the new technologies and systems you will use as a Drake student.

To get started, we recommend you:

- Review the computer recommendations for new students
- Set up Multi-Factor Authentication on your device
- Begin checking your Drake email regularly

Scan the QR code below to complete these items and view additional New Student Resources from Drake Information Technology Services (ITS). We also encourage you to visit the ITS table at the Summer Orientation Farewell Reception & Services Fair.

