

# A Glimpse at Topics Residential College Deans Address During Spring-term Registration Meetings with Freshmen

*Adapted for freshmen advisers*

## I. Looking Back, Looking Ahead

**Last term was your first term at Yale: consider the lessons you learned**

- What did you learn about shopping period and selecting courses?
- What did you learn about the pacing of academic work at college?
- What courses did you particularly enjoy and why?
- What did you learn about time management and extra-curricular activities?

**If you had a difficult fall term, don't be discouraged**

- Freshman year is a time of great transition, and it is not uncommon for students to have a difficult start
- Reflect on lessons you learned from last term, but focus on the future: you have seven more terms ahead of you
- There are many sources of support available to help you. Start by setting up a time to talk to your residential college dean

**Continue to develop relationships with faculty members and explore possible majors**

- Get to know at least one teacher this term. Visit his or her office hours
- Keep in mind that, by the end of this term, you'll need to select a sophomore adviser. One of your instructors this term could be a good candidate

## II. Spring-term Academics

**WR courses** If your advisee didn't take a Writing (WR) course yet, make every effort to encourage him or her to do so this term. Improving one's writing is a life-long process and a life-long resource. Freshmen should take advantage of the opportunity to strengthen these skills early in their Yale career. They also need two "skills" courses in freshman year.

**Modern language** If your advisee started a modern language at L1 in the fall term, he or she will not get credit for it until completion of L2. If for some compelling reason your advisee doesn't take L2 in the spring, ask him or her to consult with his or her residential college dean about the implications of losing those credits.

**Science or engineering** If your advisee wants to major in the sciences or engineering, he or she should keep prerequisites for advanced courses and the major in mind.

**Medical School** If your advisee is preparing to apply to medical school, he or she must consider how to meet those requirements. He or she should be aware that it is possible to take some of these required courses during the summer at Yale or elsewhere, or after graduation through a post-bac program. The course catalog for Yale Summer Session is already available online.

**Good academic standing** Freshmen must earn at least eight credits at the end of two terms of enrollment in order to remain in academic good standing.

- If they are **deficient** one or two credits at the end of the year, they must repair their deficiency over the summer; if they are deficient more than two credits at the end of the year, they will be withdrawn for two terms.
- Advisers and residential college deans hope that no freshmen end up in this situation, so if the adviser notices that his or her advisees find themselves in a deep hole, *please* suggest that they contact their **residential college dean** right away to see if there is anything that he or she can do to avoid such a consequence.

**“Skills” distributional requirements** Freshmen must enroll for one course credit in two of the three required skills categories: quantitative reasoning (QR), writing (WR), or foreign language.

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### III. Course Schedules

**OCS worksheets** Students must enter a minimum of three course credits on their OCS worksheets before midnight on Monday, January 18. Failure to do so will result in a \$50 fine.

**Freshmen advisers** Freshmen are told by their residential college deans to email and that it’s their responsibility to arrange meetings, not yours.

**Course preregistration** There is a preregistration process for Freshman Seminars and ECON 111, as well as for many of the most common introductory and intermediate courses in English, mathematics, and foreign languages. The application system closed on January 14, but a student may still contact the department or instructor after the deadline to see if space may be available. Spaces often open up during “shopping.”

**Discussion section and lab preregistration** There is also an online preregistration process for discussion sections and labs in several departments. See: <http://yalecollege.yale.edu/preference-selection>

**Freshmen course schedules** are due in the residential college dean’s office by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, January 27. If a student submits a schedule late, there is a \$50 fine, and the CR/D/Fail option may not be elected for any course during that term.