

Frequently Asked Questions (and Answers) to Pre-seminary Course Registration

General Information

1) Where can I get my most complete information on courses?

The online (website) MLC *Catalog* has it all. It has all course descriptions and prerequisites.

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Scheduling for
2016-17

2) How do I receive compact summaries of course information?

All returning students receive these (one-page list of all pre-sem courses, "Foolers", and FAQs) by email from the Deans' Office (Mrs. Diersen). All new students receive this information in a mailing from the Records Office. Contact Mrs. Diersen or Dean Balge for additional copies.

3) Where can I get my own tailored pre-seminary program plan?

You might still have it from your present adviser or a former adviser. Otherwise, contact your adviser for a copy. Also, on request the Deans' Office (Dean Balge or Mrs. Diersen) will provide one by email.

4) What, where, and why is the five-year plan?

The five-year plan is available under Scheduling on the Portal. It shows when courses will be offered up to five years out. It helps students and advisers plan long-range for completion of a degree program.

5) How I do know whether there is room for me in a given course?

Visit "Course Status" under Scheduling on the Portal.

6) What, where, and why is my unofficial transcript?

Your unofficial transcript lists all your courses taken, their grades, and your current school year's courses. It is available – after you log in – on the Portal under Grades. It is good to measure your progress and select your courses with reference to the unofficial transcript.

7) What things should I be careful to do regarding my unofficial transcript?

Distinguish degree credits. The unofficial transcript's total of credits earned is not necessarily the same as the *degree* credits earned. Remedial, choir, band, and non-pre-seminary (in other words for all four, non-degree) credit is also tallied as credit earned. Not every credit tallied is degree credit.

Understand credit totals and GPA. AP, cbe, CLEP, and transfer credits (these all show at the top of the unofficial transcript) do not tally into the Portal's "total credit" number. The credit total reflects only courses completed at or through MLC, because GPAs are based only on courses earned via MLC.

Tally your degree credits. If you wish, you can check off your unofficial transcript credits against your pre-seminary program plan to tally your *degree* credits. *Degree* credits include AP, cbe, CLEP, transfer, and MLC courses, any courses that apply toward the bachelor of arts degree. Check your program plan to distinguish between *degree* credits and any others (remedial, audit, non-pre-sem).

8) I am presently a freshman (sophomore, junior), but the Portal shows me as a sophomore (junior, senior). Does that matter?

Yes, and only in positive ways. It reflects your total number of credits accrued. It determines your "spot in line" for scheduling classes, as well as priority in other aspects of campus life. But your program plan shows how you will accrue the 130/131 *degree* credits needed for graduation and your actual graduation date.

9) Please refresh my memory about electives.

Area electives. Every pre-seminary student must choose one area elective in each of several academic areas (e.g., history). Not all electives fulfill an area requirement. The ones that do are listed in the catalog and on the one-page summary of pre-seminary courses. Additional area electives (beyond the one required in a given area) count as degree-credit free electives.

Free electives. A certain number of free electives are required of the pre-seminary student. Any non-Biblical language courses taken outside the student's non-Biblical language option count as free electives. And again, extra area electives are counted as free electives.

Non-pre-seminary courses. Pre-seminary students may carry non-pre-seminary courses on their schedule, if they meet the prerequisites. While they do not receive degree credit for them, such courses do impact GPAs. Students should keep in mind the eighteen-credit ceiling (see below, next).

10) What are the credit minimum and maximum that a student may carry?

Credit minimum. Four-year traditional pre-seminary students ordinarily maintain full-time status (twelve or more credits). To carry fewer credits, a pre-seminary student must obtain permission from his academic dean.

Credit maximum. In keeping with US Department of Education guidelines, students have an eighteen-credit limit each semester. Exceptions may be made through appeal to the Vice-President for Academics. Courses such as choir, band, instrumental lessons, etc. do count toward the eighteen-credit ceiling, unless they are taken as an audit. Total number of credit and audit hours may not exceed twenty-one.

General Education Menus

11) What is a GenEd menu?

A GenEd menu is a list of courses in a given academic area (e.g., science, fine arts), any one of which fulfills the requirement in that area as part of the general education required of all MLC students.

Chinese

12) Could Chinese (Mandarin) fit in my pre-seminary degree program plan?

Yes, as a free elective(s) . All the Chinese courses are available (assuming prerequisites have been met) as free elective credit. Each also fulfills GenEd intercultural requirement.

Yes, as a non-Biblical Language option. Since fall 2013, Mandarin has been available as a non-Biblical language option. Like the other single-language options, the Mandarin option requires the equivalent of six college semesters – *Elementary I & II*, and *Intermediate I, II, III, & IV*. As in the other single-language options, the college-level starting point is assumed to be *Intermediate I*; *Elementary I & II* are considered remedial (non-degree credit) courses.

History

15) Must I take HIS2112 *Rise of the West*, though it is not a GenEd requirement?

Yes, it is a pre-seminary requirement.

16) When is the best time to fulfill my HIS3010 *US History since 1945* GenEd requirement?

The best time is second semester of junior year, this for good balance among the writing and speaking emphases of the pre-seminary program.

Science

17) When is SCI2020 *Marine Ecology* offered?

Marine Ecology is offered every other year during the Christmas break in odd years between semesters I and II. It is considered a "J-term" (neither first nor second semester) course.

18) How should I register for SCI2020 *Marine Ecology*?

Marine Ecology should be scheduled as a second-semester course, but it will not *officially* tally (though it appears on the electronic scheduler) into your credit total for second semester. In other words, *Marine Ecology* might appear to take you above the eighteen-credit ceiling for second semester, but will be tallied separately as a J-term course.