

Greetings from a Graduate

During the 2002-2003 academic year, Patrick Johnson, a graduating senior, worked on the First-Year Experience Crew. As part of his assignment, Patrick created the following document to assist new students in their orientation to Warren Wilson College. We happily send Patrick's wisdom on to you, as you prepare to come to the campus.

Greetings, First-Year Student,

I'm a graduating student at Warren Wilson College, and this year I have been working on the First-Year Experience Crew to help make your transition to Warren Wilson easier. I have put together this newsletter by gathering information from several sources to make an easy reference. This is my fourth and final year at WWC, and looking back I think this information is fundamental to your success here. I hope you find it helpful, and good luck with your first year at WWC.

Patrick Johnson
Class of 2003

As the school year rapidly approaches, you will want to put some of your academic and extracurricular planning in motion. Here are some guidelines for course planning.
College – it's more than just a Full-Time job.


How Things Work: Courses and Class Time

The semester is divided into two terms (8 weeks each). You may register for courses that last the full semester and/or courses that last a term. Each class meeting lasts approximately one hour and twenty minutes. A normal course load is about 16 credits (4 courses at 4 credit hours each). To be a full time student, you must register for 12 credits, but you may register for a maximum of 18 credits without incurring any additional tuition costs.

Semester courses typically meet three times a week for 16 weeks. Semester courses meet either on Monday, Wednesday, and the odd numbered Fridays of the semester (Friday 1), *or* Tuesday, Thursday, and the even numbered Fridays (Friday 2). Some courses may require additional hours because of labs, field trips, service-learning projects, and other activities.

Term courses are concentrated into eight weeks. As an example, 4 credit courses meet Monday through Friday of one specific term. Many interrelated courses (such as Principals of Economics 1 & 2) will be available in successive terms. So, for instance, if you take Principals of Economics 1 in term I, you may follow that in term II with Principals of Economics 2.


A semester schedule might look like this for the first term. Notice that work is scheduled for three hours a day, and the sample schedule includes three semester courses (FRS 102, ENS 116, and BIO 116), and a term course (LAN 152):



	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI1	FRI2
8:00 - 9:20		Work	Work	Work		Work
9:30 - 10:50	LAN 152	LAN 152	LAN 152	LAN 152	LAN 152	LAN 152
11:00 - 12:20	Work	FRS 102	Work	FRS 102	Work	FRS 102
1:00 - 2:20	BIO 116	Work	BIO 116	Work	BIO 116	Work
2:30 - 3:50	Work	ENS 116	BIO Lab	ENS 116	Work	ENS 116

Notice above that work hours are divided into blocks that are 1 hour and 20 minutes long. Classes come first when scheduling. Your work crew supervisor will schedule around your classes.

An alternate schedule (below) could allow work in three-hour blocks of time.



	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI1	FRI2
8:00 - 9:20	Work	FRS 103	Work	FRS 103	Work	FRS 103
9:30 - 10:50	Work		Work		Work	
11:00 - 12:20	LAN 153	LAN 153	LAN 153	LAN 153	LAN 153	LAN 153
1:00 - 2:20	ENG 116	Work	ENG 116	Work	ENG 116	Work
2:30 - 3:50	ENS 205	Work	ENS 205	Work	ENS 205	Work

A typical 16-credit course load (4 courses each counting 4 credits) will take up about **15** clock hours per week in class. A typical course load is 16 credits per semester. Some students decide to take more, and some take less. Always consult your academic advisor when making those decisions.

Academic Advising:

The faculty member who teaches your First-Year Seminar is typically your academic advisor during your first year. If you are a transfer student, you will be assigned an academic advisor based on your personal academic direction, if you have mentioned your particular academic interests in your admission application. Your advisor's role is to help you select courses and align your academic schedule with your future goals. Your advisor is also a resource person who wants to help you make the transition into college.

Studying:

Some of you will need to plan on spending more time with your studies outside of class than you might have spent in high school (I definitely do). Professors recommend a minimum of one hour of study for each hour of class. If you have 2 classes 80 minutes long each day, you should study *a minimum* of three hours every day. In courses with major papers or projects, expect to spend more time studying on the weekends.

Working and Work Crews:

Your work crew will require **15** hours every week. You will learn your first work crew assignment before the start of the first week of classes. Work assignments are posted in each dorm on the Sunday before classes begin. Assignments will depend on a combination of your skills, your class schedule, and the College's needs. For instance, if you have a class from 11:00 a.m. – 12:20 p.m., you may be expected to work from 8:00 a.m. to 10:50 a.m., so you shouldn't plan on sleeping in. You will still be expected to work during the mid-term and final exam weeks, so you'll need to plan ahead so that you don't get too overloaded.

Service:

You will be required to complete a minimum of **100** service hours by the time you graduate. There are a variety of ways you can complete your service hours. The Service-Learning Program coordinates service trips during fall, winter, and spring breaks that involve traveling to an off-campus destination, many times out-of-state. Students can earn around 40 hours on one of these trips, and it is a great way to get to know some of your peers and make friends. Several service opportunities are offered during the school year, both during the week and on weekends, and requirements can also be completed from home. Make sure to look for organizations that are pre-approved for service, such as United Way affiliates, government organizations, and other not-for-profit agencies. You will need at least 60 hours of documented service to register as a Senior. You should plan on completing 25 hours of service during the first year.

Athletics:

Warren Wilson College has a variety of athletic programs:

Women's Soccer	Women's Basketball
Men's Soccer	Men's Basketball
Men's Cross-Country	Men's Swimming
Women's Cross-Country	Women's Swimming
Women's Mountain Biking	Men's Mountain Biking

Outdoor Programs offer weekend trips: paddling, hiking, climbing, surfing, sailing, road races, and skiing.

If you are thinking about participating in any athletics or are curious whether our programs would be right for you, feel free to contact the Athletic Director, Stacey Enos (senos@warren-wilson.edu), or phone: (828) 771-3737. Make sure to ask about practice times and the game schedule so that you may plan that into your course and work schedule. Practice times for many sports are 4-6 p.m.

Extracurricular Activities:

It's easy to get involved with extracurricular activities here. We offer theatre, ultimate Frisbee, yoga, contra dancing, fencing, Student Caucus, African dance and drumming, kickboxing, and outing programs, to name a few examples.

Special Needs:

If you have special needs and might require special accommodations you will need to inform the college as soon as possible. You may send documentation of learning, ADD/ADHD, physical, and/or psychiatric disability to Deborah Braden, Educational Access Coordinator (dbraden@warren-wilson.edu), Campus Box 6056, (828) 771-3791, this summer so that it will be on file when you arrive on campus. If you require books on tape, please let the college know immediately as they often take several weeks to order. Requirements for disability documentation can be found on the following web site: <http://www.warren-wilson.edu/info/accommodations.php>

College Academic Skills:

If you have special needs or have been admitted provisionally, it is recommended that you enroll in a 2-credit College Academic Skills course (EDU 116). In addition to group meetings in which students examine the complexities of the learning process, students work individually with the instructor to define and address areas of need or interest that will enhance the college academic experience. Instructor: Lyn O'Hare, Director of Academic Support Services. lohare@warren-wilson.edu or (828) 771-3012.

Advanced Placement (A.P.):

Please contact the Registrar, Christa Bridgman, with any questions or concerns regarding acceptance of A.P. credits. cbridgma@warren-wilson.edu or (828) 771-2086.

International Students:

International students with any questions or concerns are encouraged to contact Lorrie Jayne, the International Student Advisor. ljayne@warren-wilson.edu or (828) 771-3056.

Dean's List:

All students with at least 12 credit hours in a semester and a grade point average of 3.75 (with no incompletes) will be recognized on the Dean's List at the end of the semester.