

Answers to FAQs on 2008-09 Scheduling

Tools and Terms

- **Catalog.** For course descriptions and prerequisites, please refer to the *2008-09 MLC Catalog* on-line via Records // Academics // Undergraduate Studies // Undergraduate Catalog. Pages 30-38 explain the SPaM program.
- **Program Plans.**
 - Advisors have the student's program plan in their advisee folder.
 - Students have been given their program plan (long ago), may get them as below, or from their advisor.
 - Current SPaM students have tailored EXCEL program plans. E-copies are available by e-mail from the dean's office.
 - Templates for all 10 basic versions of the SPaM program are available on the SPaM academic dean's site on Portal (Website // Academics // Academic Deans // Studies in Pastoral Ministry).
- **Unofficial Transcripts.**
 - Unofficial transcripts are available on Portal.
 - The unofficial transcript's total of credits earned is often more than the *degree* credits earned. Remedial, choir, band, and non-SPaM (in other words for all four, non-degree) credit is also tallied to factor the GPAs.
 - APP, cbe, and transfer credit (anything that shows at the top of the unofficial transcript) does not tally in the Portal "total credit" number, for reasons of factoring the GPAs. GPAs reflect only courses completed at or through MLC.
 - It is often good to check off all the unofficial transcript credits against the student's SPaM program.
- **Class Standing**
 - Be sure to notice your class standing – *as Portal understands it to be* – since some second-semester frosh are classified, because of credits accrued, already as sophs, and so also sophs as juniors and juniors as seniors. This is to your advantage.

Electives

- **Area elective** requirements are spelled out in the catalog.
- **Extra area electives** are counted as free electives.
- **Free electives** are limited to three in a given subject area. (Therefore with the area elective a student may take up to a total of four electives in a given subject area.)
- **Free electives** may include area requirements of a language option other than the one student has chosen (e.g., a German-option SPaM student may take LAT2012 Ecclesiastical Latin as a free elective, if he meets the prerequisites).
- **Non-degree Electives.** SPaM students may carry non-SPaM courses on their schedule, if they meet the prerequisites. While they do not receive degree credit for them, such courses do impact GPAs.
- **Credit minimum.** Four-year traditional SPaM students must a 14-credit minimum. Non-SPaM courses may be taken to meet the 14-credit minimum, but these do *not* count as B.A. degree credit.

Comments on Some Specific Courses

- **Courses With Overlap in Content.** Students may receive *degree* credit for one of -- but *not both* – the courses in the following pairs: ENG3202 & GRK3002, HIS3021 & HIS3025, and SSC3210 & SSC3212.
- **Conducting.** Students taking the 2-credit MUS 2301 must also take a 1-credit music performance course.
- **Greek.** GRK3001 *Hellenistic Texts* may be taken as a free elective by classical Greek students; it is required for Koine Greek students.
- **Science.** For his degree a SPaM student **must take two** science courses,
 - **one of which must be** SCI 1001 Our Living World & Lab (SCI 1002).
 - **the second of which must be** one of the following:
 - SCI 1101 Our Physical World (*required, if the student does not have high school physics credit*)
 - SCI 1110 Physical Geography & Lab (SCI 1111)
 - SCI 2001 Advanced Biology & Lab (SCI 2002)
 - SCI 2010 Human Anatomy & Physiology I & Lab (SCI 2011)
 - SCI 2020 Marine Ecology
 - SCI 2120 History of Science**or, with consent of instructor, one of the following:**
 - SCI 2101 Physics (*must meet calculus prerequisite*)
 - SCI 2103 Astronomy
 - SCI 2105 Geology & Lab (SCI 2106)
 - **Available as a free elective** (not as an area elective):
 - SCI 3010 Human Anatomy & Physiology II & Lab (SCI 3011) (*must meet Human Anatomy & Physiology I prerequisite*)
- **Spanish.** SPN3001 *Latin-American Culture and Civilization* may be taken to meet the Other Cultures course requirement, but it is not possible to "double-dip" (get credit for both a Spanish free elective and the Other Cultures requirement).

Questions

- See your advisor first and then visit the academic dean's office.