Advising Fast Facts

Lafayette College

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**Common Course of Study (CCS)**

* **Writing** – FYS plus 3 additional writing courses (1 must be in the major, 1 must be outside the major)

* **Distribution Requirements** – 1 humanities, 1 natural science with lab, 1 social science, 2 additional courses in 2 different divisions outside the student’s home division

* **Quantitative Reasoning** - 1 course

* **Global and Multiculturalism** – 2 courses (GM1, GM2)

* **Values Requirement** – 1 course

* **Elementary proficiency in a second language** – 1 course or more at or beyond the 102 level, AP credit, 500+ on SAT II, TOEFL score

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**Academic Major**

* Students **declare their major** in the beginning of the spring semester, sophomore year; this process is facilitated by the Dean’s Office. Students who choose to change their major at a later time can do so via petition through the Registrar’s Office.

* Engineering students submit a **statement of intent** during the spring semester of their first year.

* Students approved to **double major** are now permitted to declare a minor and may have no more than 4 courses overlap between the 2 majors.

* Students may petition for an **individualized/self-designed major** with the approval of 3 faculty members from at least 2 different departments and APC. All programs of study must include some type of capstone experience.

* Students may petition for only a single **minor**. No more than 3 courses may overlap with the major and/or common course of study (CCS).

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**Credits**

* The college awards **AP credit** with a grade of 3, 4 or 5 depending on the subject. Credit is awarded for most high level IB exams with a 5 or higher.

* Students may petition for a **one-course overload**. FY students with a 3.5 GPA may apply during the spring semester ONLY and are reviewed on a case-by-case basis. With a few exceptions, seniors’ requests are granted, while juniors and sophomores generally must have at least a 3.2 overall GPA.

* Students are required to obtain advance approval for **transfer credit** from the relevant Laf academic department; taking courses at another school during summer/interim is a good way to catch up on lost credits.

* Students may only participate in Laf and affiliated **study abroad programs**; credits, grades and financial aid transfer. Seniors need special approval to study abroad in fall; no study abroad is permitted in the spring of senior year.
Grades

* Students may receive a grade of WD by submitting a **course withdrawal** form prior to the posted deadline. Students are often encouraged to withdraw if there is a significant danger of failing the course. Exceptions to this WD deadline are rarely granted.
* All **incomplete grades** must be made up by the 10th day of the next semester or they convert to a failing grade. The instructor and the Registrar must approve extensions.
* Faculty are asked to issue **mid-term grades** for students whose performance is less than C-. Students with mid-term grades are required to meet with their class dean.
* Introductory and exploratory courses are not eligible for **pass/fail (P/F)** grading (please consult list in faculty handbook). Juniors and seniors may petition each semester to take an upper level P/F course outside their major division.
* Only **failed courses** may be repeated; both grades are included in the GPA and appear on the transcript. However, students receiving a D+ or below in Math 161 or 162 must repeat the course to advance to the next level.
* To receive **department honors**, students must maintain a 3.00 overall GPA and a 3.2 major GPA.

Policies/Miscellaneous

* **Academic probation** results from a term and/or overall GPA BELOW 2.0.
* **Dean’s Excuses** serve to inform faculty that a student has a recognized reason for being absent; travel letters for student athletes will be submitted to classroom pros at the beginning of the school year.
* **Dean’s Review Policy** allows faculty to withdraw chronically absent students from their classes in conjunction with the Dean’s Office.
* The **academic day** officially lasts from 8:00am until 4:00pm, but there are several courses (particularly lab courses) which run past 4:00pm.
* Students thinking of **transferring** should be referred to the Dean’s Office (Class Dean).
* Students requiring **academic accommodations** work with Rebecca Brenner in Accessibility Services; accommodation letters are submitted to classroom professors in the beginning of the semester.

Referral Sources

* Academic Resource Hub (formerly ATTIC) x5098
* Bailey Health Center x5001
* Career Services x5719
* Class Deans (1st – Brandon Morris; 2nd – Chris Selena; 3rd/4th - Karen Clemence) x5080
* College Writing Program x5236
* Counseling Center x5005
* Dean of Students x5509
* Disability Services (Rebecca Brenner) x5098
* Fellowships & Scholarships (Julia Goldberg) x5067
* Financial Aid x5055
* Health Professions Advising (Simona Glaus) x5521
* International Students (Janine Block) x5546
* Pre-Law Advising (Karen Clemence) x5080
* Registrar x5090
* Residence Life x5335
* International & Off-Campus Education x5918