What you should know about our department/program...

Africana Studies

- AFS has a wide array of courses in many different departments, please keep this in mind when discussing options with interested students.
- Be sure to remember that each student has a personal history that sometimes makes them more attractive for employers. Many students may appear to have an “average” record academically, but other skills and experiences are highly sought after by employers and graduate schools. All students should receive encouragement when it comes to graduate study, at least at the Masters level in their field of interest.

Biology

- Students should be advised to take BIOLOGY and CHEMISTRY and MATH in their first year if they’re fairly serious about majoring in Biology.
- Because of how courses build upon one another, the pre-requisite structure is important and there for a reason; students need prerequisite material to succeed. In addition, academic advisors should model good practices for their students by reviewing for themselves and with first-year students how to negotiate through the extensive material provided on the website (rather than just sending a student to come talk to one of us).
- During the first year, students should become acquainted with the various research opportunities in our department.

Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering

- If a student is currently not in engineering but becomes interested in majoring in Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, the student should come talk with the Chemical Engineering Department Head as soon as possible so that the department head can review the courses they’ve taken and help them determine the best path forward.

Chemistry & Biochemistry

- Start with CHEM 121 in the fall semester unless Chemistry advanced placement has been recommended
- See suggested course sequences here: https://chemistry.lafayette.edu/program/

Civil & Environmental Engineering

- We offer a number of courses that may be of interest to students outside of engineering and that have few, if any, prerequisites:
  - ES 101 - Introduction to Engineering (no prerequisites needed)
- CE 202 - Data: the good, the bad, and the misleading (STSC course — prerequisite any 100-level lab-based course in the natural sciences)
- CE 203 - Envisioning a Sustainable World (STSC course — prerequisite any 100-level lab-based course in the natural sciences)
- CE 322 - Environmental Site Assessment (prerequisite: CHEM 121 or permission of instructor)

- If a student is currently not in engineering but becomes interested in majoring in civil engineering, the student should come talk with the civil engineering department head as soon as possible so that the department head can review the courses they’ve taken and help them determine the best path forward.

**Engineering Studies**

- The mission of the Engineering Studies program is to engage students in engineering as a liberal art, recognizing the increasingly complex challenges of socio-technical systems and examining these systems through multidisciplinary perspectives.
- Students come to the Engineering Studies major through a variety of paths, including initial interest in the humanities, social sciences, and/or sciences, as well as in engineering. Any student who is interested in exploring the Engineering Studies program should schedule, to the extent possible, chemistry, physics, and calculus classes during the first year, as well as Introduction to Engineering (ES 101). Nonetheless, if a student decides later that the Engineering Studies program sounds interesting, regardless of what they initially thought their major might be, they still may be able to complete the Engineering Studies major and should see the Program Chair ASAP.
- The Engineering Studies major requires at least eight math/science/computing courses, three core EGRS courses, and at least six additional engineering courses.
- All but one EGRS class (the capstone) is open to students from all majors at the college, and many have no or minimal prerequisites.

**English**

- Students who would like to take an introductory English course designated as a Writing or “W” course have the option of registering for English 100 or English 202. If you are unsure of which course to take, please consider the following:

*Introduction to Academic Writing (ENG 100) is probably best for me if:*

- I am a first-year or sophomore student looking for additional practice with academic writing conventions after my FYS.
- In high school, I did not do much writing.
  I am often confused or uncertain about how to organize my ideas—where to begin, how to paragraph, how to conclude, and so forth.
- Surface errors in my writing have interfered with a reader’s ability to follow my ideas.
I type or retype my papers on a computer, but don’t really revise my work.
I don’t think of myself as a strong writer.
I would benefit from taking a course in which I would write regularly and receive regular feedback on my writing.

*A Writing Seminar (English 202) is probably best for me if:*

- I want to take a course whose subject is writing and language, a course in which I can expect to write regularly and receive feedback on my writing.
- I feel fairly comfortable in planning and organizing an essay—knowing where to begin, how to paragraph, how to conclude, and so forth.
- I have specific strategies I use to draft and revise my writing. There are specific issues I know to look for when I edit my work.
- I haven’t had problems with grammar and punctuation (commas, apostrophes, etc) that interfered with the quality of my work or my ability to complete my assignments successfully.
- I consistently receive positive feedback and grades on my writing from my instructors.
- I consider myself a reasonably good reader and writer.

**Environmental Science (EVSC) & Environmental Studies (EVST)**

- EVSC and EVST are related, but are distinctly different: a BS in Environmental Science and an AB in Environmental Studies. Students from both programs take EVST 100 Intro to the Environment and EVST 400 Capstone.
- Students who think they may be interested in either program should take EVST 100 and BIOL 102 during their first year.
- The Environmental Science degree is grounded in a foundation of core sciences and is as rigorous as any other B.S. program in the natural sciences at Lafayette (i.e. on par with Biology, Geology, Chemistry).
- There are three tracks or concentration areas within EVSC: Conservation Biology, Hydrology and Aquatic Systems, and Energy Resources.
- The Environmental Studies degree is a blend of Social Science and Humanities with a bit of Science, designed to give graduates the skill-set to prepare them for careers or graduate study in diverse fields such as Environmental Policy and Management, Environmental Law, Environmental Writing and Journalism, and Environmental Economics.
- The programs have close ties to the Office of Sustainability and LaFarm, and thus our students have many opportunities for sustainability-related experiences on campus.
- The programs have close affiliation with off-campus and study abroad programs such as Frontiers Abroad in New Zealand, Semester in Environmental Science at Woods Hole on Cape Cod, and IES Environmental Studies and Sustainability in Germany.
The programs draw on faculty expertise from many programs across campus, from English to Engineering.
The programs will be housed in the new Rockwell Integrated Science Center beginning in fall 2019.

Foreign Language & Literature

Elementary Proficiency in a Second Language

To assist you in developing long-term verbal skills and intercultural awareness, Lafayette College requires demonstration of elementary-level proficiency in a second language. The College offers instruction in Chinese, French, German, Ancient Greek, Modern Hebrew, Japanese, Latin, Russian and Spanish. Native speakers of English can fulfill the College’s language requirement by successfully completing Elementary 101-102 (a two-semester course sequence), Elementary 103 (a one-semester course for high beginners, which is the equivalent of 102), or any higher-level language course (e.g., Intermediate 111). (For exemption policies, please see below.)

Registering for Classes

Language classes at Lafayette College are relatively small, and seating is on a first-come, first-serve basis. Please consult placement guidelines before you preregister because it will increase your likelihood of obtaining a seat in the appropriate level language course. After you have preregistered, the language department will consult your high school transcripts, placement test scores, and other official records (e.g., the language proficiency section on the Common Application). If the department determines that you have signed up for a course in error, you will be moved to the appropriate course level of the same language and informed of the change before the start of classes. If the course list is already full, your name will appear at the end of a wait list. If a seat does not come available, you have several options, including the option to take a different language or to wait a full semester or academic year until the appropriate level language course is next offered. If you decide to wait, please consult your academic adviser about fulfilling a different general education distribution requirement in the meantime.

General rules of thumb for determining your language level:

If you have NO prior experience in a language that you wish to study at Lafayette College, please register for Elementary 101. (Please note that this course level is normally reserved for true beginners.)

If you have experience speaking or studying a second language and you wish to register for the same language at Lafayette College, please consult relevant placement guidelines and specific requirements as listed in the Course Catalog. (For example, if you studied Spanish for two or more years in high school, you are ineligible to take Spanish 101.)
Lafayette College’s elementary-level proficiency requirement in a second language does not state which language you should take. Indeed, if you did not excel in a particular language in high school, there may be very good reasons for you to consider switching to a new language in college. If you did excel at a second language, then you must take the appropriate course level if you wish to continue your language studies at Lafayette.

Past experience is one of several factors the language department uses in determining level. For example, if you have completed multiple years of language studies in high school (e.g., AP or 4th-year honors), the language department might place you in Intermediate 111-112 or Advanced 211. (Remember that you always have the option to start a new language if you prefer studying Elementary 101-102 to continuing your studies at a more advanced level in a language you have already studied.)

Second-Language Requirement Exemption Policies

Lafayette College provides several options for students who wish to seek exemption from general education requirements in the Common Course of Study. As regards the elementary-level proficiency requirement in a second language, standardized testing is the primary way to demonstrate equivalency. If you have never taken a College Board test in the target language, the Office of the Dean of the College administers optional SAT subject tests during the first-year student orientation weekend.

Achievement testing:
- The Registrar's office accepts College Board test scores to exempt students from Lafayette’s elementary-level proficiency requirement. For languages other than English, students need a score of 3 or above on the appropriate AP exam or 500 or above on the appropriate SAT subject test in order to receive exemption. In certain cases, the Registrar's office awards course credit for high achievement on AP or IB exams; however, this policy does not extend to SAT subject tests. Furthermore, requirement exemption and course credit are not available for other forms of testing such as WebCAPE, which the language department uses as an online tool to assist students in finding the correct course level prior to registration.

Transferring course credit:
- Students are welcome to apply to transfer course credit for language courses from an approved college or university. The Registrar will grant exemption from the corresponding general education requirement if course credit is awarded. Grades, however, only transfer if students are on a program affiliated with Lafayette’s Office of International and Off-Campus Education.

Non-native speakers of English:
- For students whose second language is English (e.g., some international students), a passing score on TOEFL is sufficient to obtain exemption from the College's elementary-level proficiency requirement.
Heritage speakers:

- Heritage speakers of a language that is not tested by the College Board should make an appointment with the department head of Foreign Languages & Literatures for information about how to seek exemption from the College's elementary-level requirement in that language. Please note that students need to demonstrate elementary-level reading proficiency in the target language in order to receive exemption.

Geology & Environmental Geosciences

- The Geology Department offers a diversity of 100 level natural science with lab courses that are open to all first and second year students. While these “Introduction to Geology” courses range in course number from Geol 100 to 130 these courses are NOT sequential. Differing course numbers signify differing topical content not variations in level of difficulty. All of these courses are designed to accommodate a range of prior experience and proficiency in science coursework, from students for whom this would be their first course in natural science to those with some prior exposure to the discipline.

Health Professions: Medical, Dental, Optometry, Veterinary

- Start with CHEM 121 in the fall semester unless Chemistry advanced placement has been recommended.
- See suggested course sequences here: https://chemistry.lafayette.edu/program/

History

- 100-level GOVT classes are typically reserved for first- and second-year students UNLESS a student has declared a major or minor in Gov/Law, in which case they can request permission from the department head to enroll in a 100-level course if needed to fulfill their major or minor requirements.
- Students planning to pursue a “general” minor in Government and Law (one of three ways to pursue a minor) should be aware that each of the three upper-level GOVT courses they take must fall, respectively, within the subfields represented by the three 100-level GOVT courses they choose to take. For example, if a student takes Introductions to U.S. Politics, International Politics, and Comparative Politics, (i.e., GOVT 101, 102, and 103), then to complete the minor the student must take an upper-level course in each of the following subfields: U.S. Politics, International Politics, and Comparative Politics.

Mathematics

- During summer registration for first-year students, we offer a suite of placement tests to aid in your decision about a first math course. Please take those tests and incorporate the resulting advice in your decision. We are happy to discuss your options so you get a good start. Please see Prof. Tom Hill (Placement Leader) or Prof. Chawne Kimber (Department Head) for further information.
• The Math Department offers three majors: Math (AB/BS) and the joint Math-Econ major. Students interested in majoring in any of these are encouraged to meet with a Math professor early and often to discuss the curricula since it is strongly recommended that students take the time to plan ahead. Some courses are prerequisites for other courses, some courses are co-requisites for others, and some courses are only available in certain semesters or certain years. Planning will help you make sure you'll get to take the courses you want to take, when you want to take them. See Prof. Chawne Kimber (Department Head) for further information.

• Particularly, it is important that students who wish to major in mathematics take Math 290 and Math 300 during the first two years to ensure the widest possible selection of electives in the third and fourth years.

• Students interested in the joint Math-Econ major or interested in Statistics should take Math 335-336 as early in their careers as possible to ensure the deepest possible selection of electives in the third and fourth years.

Music

• Sign up for private lessons (MUS 140/141) online at: https://lafayette.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3OeB5YqRGE2aiBD

Philosophy

• There are many ways to be introduced to philosophy: not just through our 100-level courses, but through many 200-level courses as well. Most of the 200-level courses in philosophy have no prerequisites and are perfectly suitable to students with no prior philosophical experience, including first-year students. A range of 100- and 200-level courses offer connections to all sorts of interests and career plans, be they in art, cinema, or literature; in psychology or neuroscience; in mathematics and the natural sciences, environmental studies, or the biomedical professions; in law, politics, or social justice.

• PHIL 200, Logic, is as demanding as other “Q” (Quantitative Reasoning) courses. It is an excellent way to strengthen one’s critical thinking skills, and has proven especially useful to students planning to take the LSAT test required for admission to law school.

Physics

• Every semester, the Physics Department offers a course explicitly designed for non-science majors. Usually this is in astronomy (PHYS 104 or 108), and sometimes it is in the Physics of Music (PHYS 106). These courses are a great way for students to fulfill the natural science lab CCS requirement.

• Every fall we teach a course on Relativity and Contemporary Physics (PHYS 130) that is designed for students in physical sciences, engineering, and math. This is a relatively new course, and it gets great reviews. It can be taken before, after, or independently of the standard introductory physics courses (mechanics and
electromagnetism). It is a great choice for students interested in exploring some of the more exotic aspects of how the universe works. It is a terrific option for engineers looking for an extra science course. Another course of potential interest to such students is introductory quantum mechanics (PHYS 215).

- Engineering, math, and other students who are required to take the standard sequence PHYS 131-133 but who have strong physics backgrounds should consider taking the accelerated sequence PHYS 151-152. It is possible to switch between the sequences mid-year.

Psychology

- MATH 186 is NOT a substitute for PSYC 120.
- Taking PSYC 110 in first-year Spring does NOT inhibit one’s ability to major in Psychology.
- For sophomores, prioritize taking PSYC 120; try for PSYC 203, but that can be taken junior year, as well.
- PSYC 110 is closed to Juniors and Seniors.

Russian & East European Studies

- The Russian and East European Studies Program offers courses in language, history, literature, art, religion, government and present-day circumstances of life in the Russian Federation and a wide number of other states in the Balkans, the Caucasus region, Central Asia, and the European Union.

- Majors (nine required courses) and minors (five required courses) are also encouraged to participate in a study-abroad program in the region.
- For a list of approved and required courses, see rees.lafayette.edu.

Women's & Gender Studies

- WGS 101: Introduction to WGS is a very high-demand class and can be difficult to get into. However, the Registrar's Office staggers enrollment and adds a few additional seats as each class year registers. It may look full to an advisee but a few new seats will be added when that student's year comes up. The final enrollment is always 25.
- Students should take WGS 280: Feminist Theory as soon as they can if they wish to major in WGS. Not only will it help them with their other WGS and elective classes, it is required for the WGS major and (because of limited staffing) only offered once a year, at most.