Getting Ready to Enroll in Courses for Spring Semester

Q: When do I choose courses for the next semester?
A: The period in which you sign up for courses for your next semester typically starts about 2/3 of the way through a semester. Your “Enrollment Appointment” is listed on Spire and is determined by the number of credits you have earned.

Q: How can I prepare for my enrollment appointment?
A: 1. Check SPIRE to make sure you don’t have any holds that would prevent you from registering; ask about and resolve these as soon as you can!
2. Complete the Advisor Meeting Checklist
3. Explore courses on Spire. Select and store courses you would like to take in SPIRE’s shopping cart feature - creating a course ‘wish list’ of sorts. Your cart shows classes that you have selected, but not yet enrolled in for the term.
4. For the best course selection, plan to be on SPIRE the moment your Enrollment Appointment opens!

Remember, adding courses to your cart does not mean you are enrolled in them; it is merely a holding place until your actual enrollment appointment, at which point you will be able to enroll in the open courses you have stored in your shopping cart.

You are not successfully enrolled in a course unless you get a green check-mark on the final page!

Choosing Courses for Your Next Semester

Q: When choosing classes, shouldn’t I try to get my GenEds finished right away?
A: In most cases, NO! You’ll have four years to complete the GenEd requirements, and often you’ll have better access to specific courses you’d like later on. Since you are undeclared, it’s important for you to be ‘trying out’ potential majors by taking courses in those departments.

Q: Can I take more than one 100-level course in a major?
A: Nothing will stop you on SPIRE, but it may not count for the major, minor, etc. Some majors don’t want you doing more than one introductory course, others definitely want you to. Read the department’s website and/or talk to an advisor.

Q: What if a course I want to take is full?
A: DON’T GIVE UP! Between the start of the enrollment period and the start of the next semester, a lot can happen. If you want to get into a class that’s full, you need to commit to checking SPIRE multiple times EACH day, so you can snag an open seat if it becomes available. You can also contact the instructor or department.

Q: What if a key course I want is restricted to majors-only?
A: This can be a difficult situation – you want to take a course so you can ‘try out’ a major, but you can’t take the course unless you’re a declared major. You’ll need to see an advisor to talk this dilemma through; at times, declaring the major is the strategic thing to do, even if you change out of that major later, if you decide it’s not for you.

Q: What if I want to enroll in more than 18 credits?
A: For undeclared students, the maximum credit load is 18 credits. If, however, you think you want to sign up for more than 18 credits, you should speak with your advisor. You may petition your Academic Dean for a Credit Overload; the Dean will consider your grade point average, the number of credits you have successfully completed in the past, the specific courses you wish to take, and how close you are to graduation. NOTE: Overload permission does NOT get activated until shortly before the beginning of a semester; you cannot add overload courses until that time.