

How to Build a Good Class Schedule

Here are some important things to keep in mind when preparing your class schedule:

- **What are you taking now?** If you are currently completing a class that is part of a series of classes such as natural science or language, and are planning on continuing with that subject – then consider taking the next class in the sequence. Continuing with the sequence will make it easier to retain the material and therefore more likely to be successful than if you wait for a later time.
- **Mix GUR, major, minor and elective courses.** When reviewing class offerings using ClassFinder, look at classes within your intended major as well as GUR classes. Consider possible minor classes, and even elective courses that may be interesting to you.

If you have a major in mind – check out the Major Guides found at <http://www.wvu.edu/advising/majorguides.shtml>, on the back you will find a list of courses that may count for both the major and GURs to help you plan more efficiently.

- **Consider any major exploration goals.** Are you exploring possible majors? If so, take an intro class in the topic to discover if it is something you would enjoy as a major.

NOTE: if you continue to feel undecided about a major – make a “Choosing a Major” appointment with someone in the Academic Advising Center or Career Services Center.

- **Review prerequisites.** Be sure to check for prerequisites required for the classes you are interested in taking. You can not take a course without meeting the prerequisites.

Are there classes that you intend on taking in the future that require prerequisites? Now may be a good time to take those courses to prepare for the upcoming class. Example: you want to take CHEM 121; the prerequisite is MATH 114 or the equivalent. So, you might want to take MATH now if you have not met the equivalent.

- **Consider other commitments.** Remember to keep in mind other commitments in your life such as work, sports, family and extra curricular activities. Do not overwhelm yourself in such a way that might lead to low grades.
- **Consider course work load.** Review the Catalog and Degree Planning Guide descriptions for ideas about the coursework in a particular class. Be careful not to take on too many “heavy” courses, such as multiple lab science courses or courses requiring intensive reading and writing.
- **Plan for future course offerings using Timetable.** The Timetable, found on the WWU homepage, can help you determine when a class is being offered during the year. Many times courses will only be offered during certain quarters. Knowing about those associated with your major can help you in your planning now.
- **Be Flexible.** Last, but not least, remember to identify alternative courses. Many times the class you want will be full and you have to find another. It is best to plan ahead and come up with a number of possible courses. Also, it is a good idea to check ClassFinder at least an hour before you register to find out if any of your first choice courses are full. This will help relieve the stress when you go to register.
- **Still not sure?** Talk to someone in the Academic Advising Center for more help. Old Main 380; 360-650-3850