

## November Article 1 – Registration

We're coming upon another important time for your first-semester freshman student – registration. Your student, having recently received his or her midterm grades, now has to start thinking ahead to the (immediate) future, and begin the process of selecting classes for spring semester. To find out which day and time your student will be able to register, check out the [Registrar's website](#).

For some students, registration stirs up major stressors. Am I really committed to my current major? If I want to explore other majors, will I fall behind and not be able to graduate in four years? What if I thought I wanted to be a certain major, but my midterm grades are making me question whether it's really for me?

If you are hearing these questions or others about registration, be assured there are plenty of resources for your students to get their questions answered, and that questions and stress are perfectly normal! You can refer your student to the Academic Resource Center for any registration questions they might have.

If your students are in the “discerning” process when it comes to their majors (and hence, to some degree, the classes they should choose for next semester), they have a number of resources! Refer them to the Academic Resource Center to review the requirements for any of the majors on campus. The Career Center is also a wonderful resource for students. They meet with students to discuss potential career interests and the majors that work best for those careers, and they offer a free, no appointment necessary career assessment test.

Remember, your students were scheduled for their fall semester classes by the program coordinators of their schools – this is the first time the process and the decisions are in their hands. The beauty of this new freedom is that your students know themselves a lot better now than they did in August. They are aware of what times of days they prefer to be in class, and so can try to create a schedule based on those times. They are much more attuned to their learning styles, so they can choose professors with complementary teaching styles (often with the advice of upperclassmen peers).

The registration process differs for students in each of the schools and colleges, so the best place for students to start with their registration questions are their academic advisors or the academic program counselors in their schools. The Academic Resource Center emailed out a “Frosh Newsletter” to all first-year students in early November with advising and registration information broken down by school, so your students can refer to that as well.

The general guideline for your students as they begin the registration process is to always register for five three-credit classes each semester; these classes should be a mix of core classes, school or college requirements, and major classes. They should then set up an appointment with their advisors; advisors will review the schedule to make sure it meets major and college requirements, and then will “sign off” on the schedule and give your students a pin number that is used for online registration.

Registration begins on November 7<sup>th</sup> – and is open until January 20<sup>th</sup>, the Friday after the first week of classes. So if your students don't get the exact schedule they want, remind them to check the web registration system over winter break; as other students switch majors or decide not to return, some classes will have openings. And once your students' class schedules are set, know that they can look up their final exam schedule at any time (it's already set based on class times during the semester) – so you can plan early and know when to pick up your students after they've completed their first year here at UP!