

# How do I Pick the Right College Classes?



1) After you have been accepted to college, you should be invited to an **orientation** where you will be given directions about the course registration process. Sometimes during the orientation, you will **meet with your advisor** to talk about classes, your program of study, and pre-requisites needed. If you don't meet with someone during your orientation, you will be given information about how to schedule this meeting at a later date.

2) **Classes at college have many similarities with classes at high school.** For example, there are often **pre-requisites** that you must meet. In order to get your degree, there are **required classes** for both your program and general requirements for the school. This is similar to high school where you need certain kinds of credits and specific amounts of those credits in order to graduate.

3) College classes are **identified by their department and a course number.**

Example: PSY 101 General Psychology

(PSY stands for the Psychology department, 101 is the course number and General Psychology is the course name)

4) In college, classes that you pass successfully will **earn you credit.** Most colleges will give between 3-5 credits for each class, depending on the amount of class time you need.

5) Classes you need for your degree are all at a **college level.** Sometimes, students might have reading, writing or math levels that are not strong enough yet for college level classes. In these situations, colleges may require you to take **classes meant to support you or get you caught up.** These classes are sometimes called:

- Remedial
- Dev Ed or Developmental Ed
- Workshops
- Supports
- Labs (for example, math lab)

6) Sometimes, students are **incorrectly placed in remedial classes** because colleges only have SAT test scores from 11th grade. It's important to **bring with you the following information to your meeting with your advisor**:

- High School Transcript (showing completion of 11th grade English/math levels)
- SAT Scores (including any re-takes)
- AP/IB Test Scores
- College Transcripts (if you took college classes in high school)

7) It is very important to understand that it is **OK TO ASK QUESTIONS!!!** You are paying for your classes in time and money, and it's important to make sure that you are taking classes that will help you to earn your degree.

Here are some questions to ask:

- Am I being placed in the **right level of math needed for my program**?
- **If you were placed in a remedial or support class:**
  - Why was I placed in this class? What information was used?
  - Does this class provide credit towards my degree?
  - What other information can be used as evidence to remove this class? (examples: SAT Re-take Scores, High School Transcript, College Transcripts, AP/IB Test Scores)

8) **If your college does require you to take a placement exam** (usually the Accuplacer), please see if they will accept any of the evidence from Step #6 above. If they still want you to take the test, please know that you don't have to take all sections. For example, if a college wants you to take the test for math placement, ask that you NOT be given the reading and writing sections.

9) If you **feel stuck, confused or just want someone else's opinion**, please don't hesitate to contact the Future Center! We are here to help you!



Located in the Westminster High School Library  
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www.WestminsterPublicSchools.org/FutureCenter