ACADEMIC HIGHLIGHTS [rev 12-15-12]

This sheet of academic highlights will provide an overview of Albright’s curriculum. Registering for your first college courses may loom large at this time, but you’ll discover that it’s easy to understand and complete. Incoming fall freshmen will receive course registration materials by late June, including suggested course selections for particular majors. Students entering in the spring term will receive materials prior to the January Transfer Orientation.

Our best overall academic planning advice is: think long-term, get a first-hand familiarity with the curriculum and academic policies by consulting the online Catalog, get to know your advisor, and ask all the questions you may have. When you and your advisor sit down to talk, use your time together to plan and discuss not just your next semester courses but also your longer term academic and personal goals as well. If you need more time to get questions answered than your first appointment provides, make another appointment. It’s important to use fully your faculty advisor’s time and expertise. You should see your advisor several times each semester, especially your first year, and it will be up to you to make that happen.

Of course you’ll have many academic questions over the course of your four years at Albright, and in addition to your advisor your professors, the registrar’s office, and the academic support staff will also be resources for you. This team of professionals is there to help you maximize your academic success. We recommend that you read the advising pages on our web site for more information about the advising process, your relationship with your advisor, and how to get the most out of it. Just click on Academics from the home page, go to Academic Support, and select the Academic Advising link.

Curriculum

Albright uses a course unit system, which means that all courses are equal to one unit. To graduate from Albright, you will complete at least 32 courses (or course units).

Albright’s curriculum consists of four components:

- General studies courses
- Area of concentration (major) courses
- Elective courses
- Non-credit co-curricular requirement

1. **General Studies:** Currently 12 – 16 courses are required, depending on your major (concentration). These courses provide the foundation of your liberal arts education, and you are encouraged to explore the subject areas represented and their particular approaches to knowledge. General studies requirements come from the following areas:

   - **First Year Seminar** – a seminar course that introduces you to college-level academic reading, writing, and discussion through different topics taught by our full-time faculty; not required for transfers designated as sophomores or above.

   - **English Composition** – two English composition courses. Certain students may be exempt from the first course based on their standardized test scores and high school English grades.

   - **Humanities** – four courses from at least three of the following areas: literature, history, philosophy and religious studies.

   - **Foreign Language** – one to three courses (depending on your years of high school language study and grades) in the same language. Albright offers Spanish, French, German, Chinese, Latin and Greek.
• **Natural Science** – one laboratory course in biology, chemistry, physics, geology or astronomy.

• **Quantitative Reasoning** - one course that involves numerical analysis. Some concentrations require a particular course from this area – if you think that applies to you, ask your advisor or the registrar’s office (some examples are Accounting and most social sciences).

• **Social Science** – two courses, one each from two of the following social sciences: economics, political science, psychology or sociology/anthropology.

• **Fine Arts** – one course from art, music or theatre. Participation in the choir, orchestra or band for four semesters also satisfies this requirement.

• **Interdisciplinary** – one interdisciplinary (IDS) course, which synthesizes multiple academic disciplines to address a topic.

2. **Courses in your Major**: 13 courses are generally required for a major, while 14 courses are typically required for a combined major (seven from each).

3. **Elective Courses**: These are other courses you choose to achieve the 32 required for graduation, whether to reinforce your major or to explore a different interest; the number needed in order to reach 32 will vary, depending on the number of courses required for your general education and major.

4. **Non-Credit Requirement** – students must also complete the Albright Cultural Experience by attending a series of 16 approved cultural events, usually by the end of their sophomore year (8 for sophomore transfers; junior transfers are exempt).

### Typical Schedule

Most students take four courses each semester. For a first-semester freshman, a typical schedule is:

- First Year Seminar
- English Composition
- Foreign Language course or a General Studies course
- One other General Studies course or an introductory course in your major

You may take no more than four courses a semester during your first year. (Note: choir, band, orchestra and music lessons do not carry academic credit, so you may register for these courses in addition to four others.)

### Faculty Advisor

You will be assigned a faculty advisor who will help you plan your immediate and long-term academic program and assist you with the registration process. You will meet with your advisor during New Student Orientation in August and will have access to academic advisement before then as well. If you enter in the spring term, you will consult with an advisor at the Transfer Orientation and be assigned a permanent advisor.

### Disability Services

The College makes reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities who make a request supported by appropriate documentation. You will find information about our disability policies at [http://www.albright.edu/academics/alc-disabilities.html](http://www.albright.edu/academics/alc-disabilities.html). If you plan to seek disability accommodations, we
urge you to begin the process as soon as possible by contacting the Academic Learning Center and asking for an accommodations packet (610-921-7662 or academiclearningcenter@albright.edu). Students who expect physical access issues because of disability should inform the Dean of Students office (610-921-7611 or dcoldren@alb.edu). If disability issues are relevant to you, please see the attached letter from the director of the Academic Learning Center.
TO: New Students  
FROM: Erin Evans, Assistant Dean and Director of the Academic Learning Center  
RE: Services for Students with Disabilities and Medical Conditions

Congratulations on your admission to Albright College. Be assured that services for students with medical conditions and/or disabilities are available to all new students who need them through the Academic Learning Center (ALC). With information from you, along with proper confidential clinical documentation, we are able to plan with you the provision of reasonable accommodation of course materials, exams, classrooms and other aspects of student life, as appropriate. It’s also important to know that the ALC is the hub of academic support on campus. Free tutoring services, academic workshops, and assistance with academic matters are coordinated through the ALC. For example, many of our students meet with tutors who often times have had your professors and can teach content and study skills. The staff members in the ALC are very knowledgeable and assist Albright students on a daily basis.

Students with various conditions such as learning disabilities, attention deficit disorder, mental health conditions such as depression or anxiety, and chronic health concerns are all encouraged to meet with me to discuss academic supports, potential accommodations, and college policies regarding your enrollment. Please know that we understand that self-disclosure is a very personal matter. Students who wish to have a confidential conversation about their previous history of using accommodations, their eligibility for services, or any referrals for a disability related evaluation are encouraged to request an appointment at their earliest convenience. All disability records are kept separate from a student’s educational record; utilization of accommodations will not be cited on transcripts, applications, or permanent records.

All requests for services and accommodations are evaluated by Disability Services in conjunction with Albright College policies. The timely presentation of comprehensive clinical documentation, which sufficiently meets our guidelines, is essential and available at our website: http://www.albright.edu/academics/Documentation_Standards.pdf. Evaluation and service delays may result from documentation that does not arrive in our office by requested deadlines and/or does not contain the information specified in these guidelines; and we reserve the right to request additional interpretation from your clinician. This evaluation can include consultation with at least one clinical consultant in addition to a meeting with the student before Disability Services makes a final determination of formalized services. The provision of services in a previous educational setting does not guarantee that they will be approved here.

If you anticipate needing health or disability-related services in the classroom or exam setting, please contact the Academic Learning Center as soon as possible after you have committed to Albright and submit current clinical documentation. It does take time to review your needs, meet with you, and make appropriate arrangements. Should you have any questions, please call 610-921-7662 at your convenience. The ALC is located on the lower level of the Administration Building (which is attached to the library). If you anticipate physical access issues on campus please contact the office of the Dean of Students (610-921-7611).

*** Even if you have provided documentation to another Albright College office, you must send a separate copy to the Academic Learning Center. We look forward to meeting you. All questions welcome!