

GUIDE TO SELECTING YOUR COURSES AND DEVELOPING YOUR COLLEGE SCHEDULE

BASELINE KNOWLEDGE – PLACEMENT TEST RESULTS

What are your placement test scores? This will tell you what courses to start with to prepare for success at Bucks – Select and register for the courses suggested for your scores.

PLANNING - PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS AND PREREQUISITES

What is your major/program of study? Review the list of courses needed for your program along with the suggested sequence, found online.

What are the prerequisites? Check to see if you have met the prerequisite requirements for the courses you are considering. If not, choose the course that will help you satisfy the requirement.

BASELINE KNOWLEDGE – PRIOR LEARNING

Have you already learned the material taught in a Bucks course that you need? If so, when time permits, explore your options by reviewing the Prior Learning Assessment web pages at www.bucks.edu/pla. In the meantime, register for courses on material you have not already learned.

PLANNING - SCHEDULING

When do you hope to graduate and/or transfer?

Associate degree programs are considered two-year degrees and typically require 60+ credits.

How many credits should you take?

Students taking 12 or more credit hours are considered full-time. However, it will take more than four regular Fall/Spring semesters of 12 credits to complete a 60+ credit associate degree in two years.

How can you develop a class schedule to accommodate study time and your commitments?

Most courses are 3 credit hours. Some math and laboratory science courses are 4 credit hours, Physical Education courses are typically 2 credit hours, and some seminars are 1 credit hour.

Class time – Classes meet one hour per credit hour each week for 15 weeks in the regular Fall/Spring semesters. Compressed schedules are offered in Intercession, Summer I, Summer II and Modular sessions - Classes meet more minutes per week for shorter duration during these options.

Study time – Plan 2-3 hours per week study time for every hour classroom time.

Work time – Studies show that full-time students do best when they work 10-15 hours per week.

Other commitments – Plan enough time for everything else!

PLANNING - LOGISTICS

How do you want to take courses?

Studies show that new students do best with some face-to-face classes; it may be best to consider other options such as online, hybrid, and modular later when you have a strong understanding of your study and learning style.

Where you do want to take courses?

Bucks offers classes at three campuses - Lower Bucks (Bristol), Newtown, Upper Bucks (Perkasie) - plus online. Be sure to plan commuting time to and from each campus.

When do you want to take courses?

You can refine your search to identify classes based on the time of day or night they meet or days of the week. Consider your learning style when choosing the number and time of class meetings per week – for example, it may be best to plan a study period after a math or laboratory science class for homework and review while the material is fresh.

SUMMARY – CONSIDERATIONS TO KEEP IN MIND

- Your major and/or transfer plans.
- Your placement test scores and any prerequisites needed.
- The suggested course sequence for your program.
- Other commitments on your time.
- Your learning style and study habits.