

**THE KEYS TO SECOND SEMESTER SUCCESS FOR FRESHMEN
ONE STEP AHEAD**

- A manageable second semester unit load is **15 units** for non-working students and **12 units** for students working 20 hours or more each week. **DON'T OVERLOAD UNITS DURING YOUR FIRST YEAR.** The following information will give you options from which to choose.
- Many General Education courses are designed to introduce you to new ideas and ways of thinking. They help develop important skills and certain breadth of knowledge and vision. Take some lower division (100-199) General Education courses that really interest you. Be sure to take at least one GE Foundation course.
- In high school you may have “shone” in some academic areas. **LOOK FOR SOME CLASSES IN AREAS IN WHICH YOU RECEIVED GOOD GRADES (“B” or better),** have some previous experience, or have particular interest.
- Take courses for which you are adequately prepared. If you plan to take a course that requires a lot of math or writing skills, be sure you have passed the GE level requirements for math and composition. Good writing skills are especially essential to a successful academic career.
- Prerequisites are beginning-level courses that prepare you for more advanced courses. **DON'T TAKE A COURSE IF YOU HAVE NOT HAD THE LISTED PREREQUISITES.** Prerequisites are very good first-year selections.
- Reevaluate your next semester's course selections after completing your current semester. Adjust your schedule if necessary.
- If you were required to take pre-baccalaureate courses **YOU MUST** successfully complete all pre-baccalaureate requirements by the end of the second semester.
 - If you pass English 1, take Composition 100 (A.1.)
 - If you pass Math 1, take Math 10.
 - If you pass Math 10, take a GE math course. Check to see if your major requires a specific GE math course.
 - **Repeat any pre-baccalaureate course you do not pass.**
- Take University 100, if you have not already done so.
- Successfully complete any deficiencies in visual/performing arts or foreign language by the end of your second semester.
- Some lower division General Education courses can overlap lower division major department requirements and thus fulfill two different requirements at the same time. Be sure to see your advisors in the Academic Advising Center, special advising programs and your undergraduate major advisor for more information.

- Choose at least one lower division major requirement course. Find one that introduces you to the joys of your major.
- Lower division electives provide your best opportunity to open doors to new educational experiences. Be brave! Explore diverse cultures, old histories, and new technologies. Choose an exciting lower division elective course.
- Once you are in your new classes, ask yourself these important questions:
 - Do I understand the instructor?
 - Do I understand the assigned books?
 - Will I have enough time to spend on reading, writing, or on research assignments?
 - Do I usually do well on the types of tests required in this course?
- If you have positive responses to these questions, please keep the assigned class, but if you have negative responses think about withdrawing from that class and changing to another.
- You can add or drop classes, but be sure to use IVR and 'MyCSULB' during the first two weeks. After that time fill out the correct forms and file with Enrollment Services offices before the deadline. (See the Schedule of Classes for add/drop schedules). Forms can be found at Enrollment Services or the Academic Advising Center.

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