

Liberal Arts and Sciences Freshman Guide

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(All information is subjective. Consult Financial Aid about your individual student aid package)

Welcome to Liberal Arts and Sciences at Farmingdale State College! Our department looks forward to working with you to help you achieve your goals while in our program. This booklet contains important information for you as an incoming student. Please review in detail to ensure that you are prepared for your advising appointment and first semester at FSC!

- Your first advising appointment will either be over the phone or in Memorial Hall, Room 100 with a Liberal Arts and Sciences Department Advisor. Now that you are a student here, Liberal Arts and Sciences is your home and we will be seeing you every semester! *Note: If you are a RAM student, you will be advised by the RAM Program and not Liberal Arts and Sciences.
- Please come see us early each semester. In order to register each semester, you **MUST** be advised in the Liberal Arts and Sciences office. Ideally, you want to be advised well before your registration date so you can plan your classes accordingly. We only register you for your first semester. Every semester after that, you will register yourself. In order to register each semester, you will need an Alternate PIN number. That PIN number changes every semester and it is only given after you have been advised. So, don't delay, come see us! We will send you reminder emails, so please be sure to check your Farmingdale email often. We welcome walk-ins, but you can also make advising appointments by booking through the Liberal Arts & Sciences website: <https://www.farmingdale.edu/arts-sciences/las/index.shtml>. Then click on the "Advisement Appointment link" or by scanning the QR Code below:



MODERN LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT/ASSESSMENT/PLACEMENT:

- If you are working with the Disability Services Center, the center will determine whether you may be exempt from taking a modern language by providing a copy of your IEP, 504 Plan, and possibly additional documentation. If you are exempt, you will be required to take a culturally based Modern Language class offered through the Modern Language Department (MLG), which will fulfill your Level II Modern Language Requirement. These classes are taught in English and are about a culture or civilization.
- Please note that if you received an 85 or higher on the following foreign language exams, you are exempt from taking a foreign language course at Farmingdale: Regents Exam appearing on your high school transcript as: LOTE B, FLACS B, Check Point B, or other regional assessment. If you are exempt, you will be required to take a humanities/arts class offered through the Modern Language Department (MLG). These classes are taught in English and are about a culture or civilization. If you want to continue to take a foreign language you are welcome to do so but it is not required if you meet the above requirements.
- If you scored less than an 85 on a State Regional Assessment Exam or took language through level 3 in high school, but did not take Regional Assessment, you are required to take Modern Language through level two for the Liberal Arts & Sciences program. Some students may be comfortable going directly into a level two course, while others may want to begin with level one. The following are some guidelines to consider:
 1. You have completed three/four years of the same language through the Junior year of high school. If yes, consider level two and expect to be assessed through the Modern Languages Department.
 2. You have demonstrated level one ability by passing a placement exam offered by the Modern Language Department. If yes, consider level two and expect to be assessed through the Modern Languages Department.
 3. Answer the following: "I understand at least 50% basic foreign language in the present tense, but I don't know how to express actions that happened in the past or I barely remember the past tense." If yes, consider level two and expect to be assessed through the Modern Languages Department.
 4. You scored well in a regional assessment, but not an 85 or higher. If yes, consider level two and expect to be assessed through the Modern Languages Department.
 5. If you decide to take a level one course, it will be used as an Arts & Sciences Elective.
- For native speakers of languages other than English, you may be able to test out of modern language by taking a Foreign Language Proficiency Exam. Exams are conducted for a variety of languages and are conducted three times a semester, only during the Fall and Spring semesters. You can schedule an exam by contacting the Modern Language Department at 934-420-2192, or visiting Memorial Hall, Room 200.

DEFINING PLACEMENTS INTO ENGLISH, SCIENCE AND MATH:

- **English:**

1. *Are you registered for an English class?* All students are expected to take English in their first semester at Farmingdale. The following are some guidelines to consider:
 - a. You may be waived from EGL 101 (Composition I/College Writing) and/or EGL 102 (Composition II/Writing About Literature) if you took AP, University in the High School, or IB and received credits for them. Please see the “New Student Checklist” for details on sharing your test scores for transfer credit evaluation.
 - b. If you received a score of 500 or higher on the Evidence Based Reading and Writing section of the SAT exam will be placed in EGL 101; if you received an essay score below 500 on the Evidence Based Reading and Writing section of the SAT will be placed in EGL 097.
 - c. If you took the ACT Exam and opted out of taking the ACT essay and have a score of 21 or higher on BOTH the Reading and English Sections of the ACT, you will be provisionally placed in EGL 101; if you opted out of taking the ACT essay and received a score below 21 on BOTH the ACT Reading and English sections will be provisionally placed in EGL 097.
 - d. In the absence of SAT or ACT exam a Common Core ELA Regents grade of 83 or higher will place you into EGL 101. A Common Core ELA Regents grade of 82 or lower will place you into EGL 097.
 - e. If you do not have any of the above, you will be placed in EGL 097. This is a preparatory class and does not apply to your degree. Students who are placed in EGL 097 are strongly encouraged to take the English Placement Exam prior to the start of classes. When you receive your exam results via email, you **MUST** contact the Liberal Arts and Sciences Office so the class can be adjusted on your schedule and place you in EGL 101, otherwise it will result in taking a course you do not need that doesn't count toward your degree.

- **Science:**

1. If you are registered for a science with a lab class, we implore you to be sure you have the required/suggested background for that class in order to set you up for success. This is especially true if you are considering registering for BIO 170 (Human Anatomy and Physiology 1), BIO 166 (Principles of Anatomy and Physiology), BIO 130 (Biological Principles 1), particularly as an entering freshman, as these courses are challenging. The following are some guidelines to consider:
 - a. A lab Chemistry from high school, such as a regents Chemistry with both a passing grade in the course and the regents, is recommended prior to taking BIO130, BIO170 or BIO166. If you have never taken a lab Chemistry, your course grade/regents scores were weak, or you do not honestly remember much of the subject material, it is **HIGHLY** recommended that you take CHM 124 - Principles of Chemistry before you take BIO 130, BIO 170 or BIO 166.

- b. You may want to consider taking either BIO 120 or BIO 123 as a stepping stone to a higher level of Biology if your science background is weak and you are considering a science focused field of study.
 - c. MTH 116 (College Algebra) or math through Algebra II/Trig with a 70 or above in the regents (or equivalent math) and Regents Chemistry or CHM 124 is needed to enter CHM 152 (General Chemistry). **Please note you may not take CHM 124 if you are placed into MTH 015. You must complete this course first or place higher into credit level math.**
 - d. MTH 129 (Precalculus) or MTH 117 (Precalculus) is needed to enter PHY 135 (College Physics). If you do not have the required regents math to take MTH 129 or MTH 117 you may need to take MTH 116 as a prerequisite course.
 - e. If your future program of study requires PHY 135/PHY 136 and you do not have a physics course from high school it is strongly recommended that you take PHY 121.
 - f. If you did not take the regents, science placement will be based on the course grade and level of science taken.
2. Some science classes are more challenging than others. For example, BIO 130 is meant for science majors. Unless you plan to go that route, BIO 120 or 123 is often an acceptable option for BIO.
 3. Another option would be to take a Physical Science plus lab (PHY125L). Check the varying four-year program suggestions and requirements for your future major of interest. We also highly advise you only take no more than ONE science with a lab per semester, particularly as an entering freshman, as these courses are challenging.

- **Math:**

1. If you are interested in pursuing a particular Bachelor's degree at Farmingdale State College, it is important to note the required math for that program. Some programs require a great deal of higher-level math classes so it is wise to begin your math sequence your freshman year. Additionally, some science classes require a certain level of math as a prerequisite. Look at the suggested and required classes to be sure you are on the right path for both math and science. Come speak to us or email the department if you are confused about math and science sequences. The following are some guidelines to consider:
 - a. MTH 116 (College Algebra) is the crucial math course to take before you can take Precalculus or Calculus. An Algebra II/Trig course with a 85 or higher in the course or a 70 or above in the regents may substitute for MTH 116. You are eligible to take MTH 116 prior to taking a higher-level Math if you feel a review of Intermediate Algebra would be beneficial.
 - b. Math placement levels are determined by your scores on regents exams from high school or any college level courses you may have received credit for (AP, IB or University in the High

- School). Please see the “New Student Checklist” for details on sharing your test scores for transfer credit evaluation.
- c. If you do not have a regents score of 70 or higher on your Algebra 1 regents you will be placed in MTH 015 which is a preparatory non-credit bearing math course.
 - d. Please be aware that there are often math requirements to take certain science courses. Please see the above science section.
 - e. If you did not take a Regents Exam in a Regents level Math course, a grade of 85 in the class is necessary to progress to a higher level of math.
2. If the school you attended did not have Regents level courses, we strongly encourage you to take the Math Placement Exam prior to the start of classes. When you receive the results of your exam via email, you **MUST** contact the Liberal Arts and Sciences Office so the course can be adjusted with the appropriate level math course, otherwise it will result in taking a course you do not need.

Additional First-Year Courses:

- **FYE 101** - First Year Experience: The transition to college from high school is not easy for many students. College is not the 13th year of high school! Topics include learning about campus services, time management, test taking skills, study skills and diversity. This is a **required** one-credit class.
- **FRX 103** - Career Planning: This course is designed to assist you if you are undecided about choosing a future career or major. In the course you will take a number of assessments, to facilitate learning about your interests and skills/abilities. You will then take those results and you will be guided in exploring different careers. This is an optional two-credit class and counts towards your general elective credit.

How many classes/credits should I take?

While most students take four or five courses (12 to 16 credits) per semester, a lot depends upon you. 12 credits is considered full time. Are you playing a sport or do you have a full-time job? Do you have other responsibilities that can take time away from your studies? You may want to consider taking fewer classes/courses so that you can keep your grades up. **Note: Students on the Excelsior Scholarship must complete 30 credits per year. This often means 15 credits in the Fall semester and 15 credits in the Spring semester, but AP credits, and other college credits earned in high school may factor in during your first year. Please discuss with an advisor and see the information below.**

FINANCIAL AID AND ACADEMIC ADVISING:

It is the responsibility of all students to know their financial aid status (knowing if you receive financial aid and if you do, what types of aid you receive). Financial aid often has eligibility requirements that dictate the number of credits being taken, which courses you are eligible to take, and the GPA requirements. These requirements can vary depending on the type of financial aid you receive. As a student it is your responsibility to know what those eligibility requirements are for your specific financial aid package. You can email the Financial Aid Office at faoffice@farmingdale.edu or visit them in Laffin Hall to understand what types of aid you receive and their corresponding eligibility requirements.

Please be aware that failure to take courses that apply to your Liberal Arts and Sciences Associates degree may result in loss of your financial aid.

After registration it is essential that you review your DegreeWorks audit to be sure that all classes you registered for apply to your degree. To access DegreeWorks, log onto your RAM Portal and click on DegreeWorks on the left-hand side menu. If any classes do not appear to meet degree requirements or appear under "Fall Through", please contact las@farmingdale.edu or call (934)420-2656 immediately to resolve the issue. *Please note, the first five days of the semester is the last chance to add/drop courses. After the first week, no schedule changes can be made and any course you wish to stop attending must be officially withdrawn, with a signature from your professor on the withdrawal form provided by the Registrar's Office. You should also check if withdrawing affects your financial aid.

Financial Aid/Excelsior Grant:

The Excelsior Grant requires that a student complete 30 credits per academic year (though this varies for students who officially work with the Disability Services Office at FSC). Developmental classes (less than 100 level such as EGL 097 or MTH 015) cannot be used towards the 30 credits. **If you are getting financial aid, you must be taking classes that apply to your current major. Please direct financial aid questions to the Office of Financial Aid located in Laffin Hall. If you receive Excelsior you may want to consider transferring to your four year major early-on depending on your academic goals and the overlap with the Liberal Arts and Sciences requirements. Failure to transfer to a new degree/program in a timely manner may result in making up credits before entering the new program or losing the Excelsior Scholarship completely. *Always consult with the Office of Financial Aid***