

## CLASS AVAILABILITY 101 (for incoming freshmen)

During the summer, first-time college freshmen all over the country begin to worry about getting the classes they need for their first semesters of college. While class availability is often a concern at many large universities, *Tulane University's incoming freshman class should not worry*. Please keep the following in mind when preparing your schedule for fall:

1. The only course you must take in the fall is a section of **TIDES**, and there are lots of these (more than 125 sections).
2. Although you will need to successfully complete **ENGL 101** during your freshman year, you can take this class in either the fall or the spring. (If you have AP or IB credit – or transfer credit – for ENGL 101, you have already satisfied this requirement.)
3. The “Registration Worksheet” you will complete will ask you to **identify six possible classes and three alternate classes**. Identifying three alternate classes before you begin to register ensures that you will be able to register for a full schedule for classes.
4. As a freshman (even you have quite a bit of AP or IB credit) **you have most of the core coursework ahead of you**; therefore, it should be relatively easy for you to come up with five courses that will apply toward specific degree requirements.
5. Once you have registered for fall, **you will be able to adjust your schedule online all summer**. You can keep your eye on certain courses, and if they open up at any point, you can add them.
6. Some classes are simply very popular and fill up early in the registration process; however, many of these classes are offered every semester or annually. **If a specific course you want is closed, you can plan to register for it in the spring or next fall.**
7. Sometimes waiting does not seem like a good option. For example: What if you had your heart set on taking “Arabic I” in the fall and it is full. If that is the case, you can **check on TOUR to see whether there is a wait-list option for this course**, and – if so – add your name. (Adding your name to a wait-list does not, however, guarantee you a spot in that course: Wait-lists are fluid. If you become first on the wait-list and a seat opens up, you will be added to the class automatically.)
8. Although your academic advisor cannot get you into closed classes, he or she will be able to help you fully explore the available options. **Your academic advisor is very skilled at finding open sections of courses you can use to fulfill specific degree requirements**. If you need help, he or she can help you.
9. If a section of a course you want is closed, but you see there is an open section, **try rearranging your schedule around that open section**. You will probably want to make use of the “Conditional Drop/Add” feature on TOUR when rearranging your classes.
10. Take heart. The next time you register for classes, you will be registering as a continuing student during the “priority registration” period. Also, **as you accrue more hours, you will be assigned earlier registration times**.