







# FRESHMAN ENROLLMENT GUIDE




## FOR FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY

Welcome to FHSU! We're so glad you've joined us this year. To help you get off to a successful first year experience with us, we've created this enrollment guide. Follow its advice. This guide is primarily for Undecided majors. If you have declared a major it is likely that you will be taking at least one course from that department. *If you have any problems or questions, contact your advisor.*

THE BIG 2	<i>Start with the assumption that, as a Freshman, you should be in the following "Big 2" courses your first semester.</i>
 <b>ENG 101: English Composition I</b> (3 hours)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>English Composition I (ENG 101) and II (ENG 102) are required for all students. <i>Because writing is such a critical foundation skill, we strongly encourage students to take English Composition I and II their Freshman year.</i></li><li>Some students will already have taken English Composition I (and possibly II) through concurrent enrollment or a community college. <i>If you are ready to move straight into English Composition II (ENG 102), then do so your first semester. If you have credit for both English Composition I and II, then move on to a 2<sup>nd</sup> Tier course selection.</i></li><li>Students with an AP score of 3, 4 or 5 can place out. HOWEVER, you should know that some schools in the Regents system do not accept anything below a 5. <i>Writing is one of the most important skills you will develop in college. You will use it throughout your career, no matter what field you pursue. If you don't have a 5 on the AP, we encourage you further hone your skills by taking the class rather than relying on your AP score.</i></li></ul>
 <b>COMM 100: Fundamentals of Oral Communication</b> (3 hours)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Oral communication is one of the most effective skills to learn while in college. As a college student you will be expected to speak comfortably in front of a group of people whether it is a presentation in class or an interview for a job upon graduation. The class prepares all students for good communication skills.</li></ul>

2 <sup>ND</sup> TIER	<i>Beyond the Big 2, most Freshmen should consider taking the following two courses their first semester.</i>
 <b>MATH 101 or 110: Liberal Arts Mathematics or College Algebra</b> (3 hours)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Like English Composition, Math is a critical foundation skill. All FHSU students are required to take Liberal Arts Mathematics (MATH 101) <b>or</b> College Algebra (MATH 110). You can place out of these courses with advanced Math standing in high school. You must prove your Math-level readiness with the Math Department. <i>Some students are required to do remedial work (MATH 010: Intermediate Algebra), and some students choose to start with MATH 010 just to make sure they are ready for MATH 101 or 110.</i></li><li>We know some people don't like Math. It isn't going to get any easier if you wait until you're a Senior and the last math class you had was Algebra II in high school 4 years ago. Don't wait. Take it while you still remember some high school material.</li><li>Which math course you will take is determined by your major; most students cannot take MATH 101.</li></ul>
 <b>MLNG: Language Requirement</b> (5 hours)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Many majors at FHSU require students to take 10 credit hours of a Modern Language (five hours per semester). <b>Check with your advisor regarding your language requirement.</b> You may choose from French I and II (MLNG 201/202), German I and II (MLNG 208/209) or Spanish I and II (MLNG 225/226). <i>(Mandarin Chinese I and II may soon be available.)</i></li><li>If you had two or more years of a language in high school you may be able to move straight into level II of your foreign language. <i>Please visit with the MLNG department about the advisability of doing so.</i></li><li>It is almost always preferable for students to complete their language requirement in their Freshman or Sophomore year. Why?<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ ...the 5-hour class is hard to work around in a schedule and it is MUCH easier to do so as a Freshman or Sophomore when a student is mostly taking General Education courses which have a wide selection of offerings and times.</li><li>➤ ...if you had any language at all in high school you should not let what you learned slip away.</li><li>➤ ...it enhances your study abroad opportunities if you already have a strong background in language when you apply.</li></ul></li></ul>

With these four courses, you should be set to create a schedule for your first semester at FHSU. If you already have credit for one or two of these courses check out the third tier for more recommended courses.

<b>3<sup>RD</sup> TIER</b>	<p>The Big 2 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tier may take care of all your schedule needs. Those combined courses total 14 credit hours; for a first semester Freshman that's a pretty good load.</p> <p><b>But, if the Big 2 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tier haven't produced a full Fall semester schedule for you, then here are the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tier Options we recommend:</b></p>
<b>Note:</b> We discourage Freshmen from taking 17 hours. We think 14-15 hours is plenty for your first semester. The minimum number for financial aid full-time status is 12-hours.	
 <b>HHP 200:</b> <b>Personal Wellness</b> <b>(3 hours)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This course provides a survey of health and fitness concepts and practices related to the dynamic nature of positive wellness knowledge and behavior.</li> <li>• Everyone is required to take this course to graduate. There are lots of sections available. In addition, you will learn some important information and skills to help you make wise choices in college.</li> </ul>
 <b>MIS 101: Introduction to Computer Information Systems</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This course is an introduction to computing with an emphasis on improving productivity and communications through the effective use of available technology. Students will acquire computing skills to increase personal productivity in problem-solving, critical thinking and information management through the use of available software packages designed for office applications and telecommunications.</li> <li>• Everyone is required to take this computer literacy course, and since it is another of the foundation skills, it is important to take it early on in your academic experience. Like Oral Communication, there are lots of sections to choose from.</li> </ul>
<b>NOTE:</b> Two out of the three courses below are required for you to graduate.	
 <b>ENG 125: World Literature and the Human Experience</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A study of literature as a vehicle for giving enduring form to the perception of universal themes basic to the human condition, such as conformity, rebellion, society, initiation, love, morality, and death.</li> </ul>
<b>GSCI 110: World Geography</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promotes international understanding via a survey of the world as a system of interrelated political units, environments, resources, lifestyles, and problems.</li> </ul>
<b>HIST 111: Modern World Civilization</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An introductory survey of the major political, economic, social, and cultural developments in world civilization from approximately 1500 A.D. to the modern day.</li> </ul>

## OUR ADVICE BEYOND THAT...

- If you've worked through the Big 2, 2<sup>nd</sup> Tier and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tier suggestions and you still need a class, then think about your interests and **find a General Education course that you are likely to enjoy**. There are 28 credit hours of distributed courses for you to choose from. Be sure to check with your advisor as some majors require specific courses.
  - You can choose from Humanities courses in Art, Communication Studies, English, Interdisciplinary Studies, Modern Languages, Music, and Philosophy. Mathematics and Natural Sciences include Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Geosciences, Mathematics & Computer Science, and Physics. In the Social and Behavioral Sciences category you can choose from taking a course in Economics, History, Multiculturalism, Political Science, Psychology, or Sociology.
  - Please note that you are not eligible for specified general education courses in which they are your area of study. For example: if you are a Communications major, the specified general education courses in the field of communications (COMM 120, 125, 318) will not go toward your general education requirement.
- Finally, keep in mind that we don't generally recommend 300-or higher level courses for Freshmen.

### A final comment ...

**The most important goal of the first semester is setting you up for success.**

There's a lot to adjust to in the first year of college. You should choose a course schedule you are likely to find manageable. So, if you are especially anxious about any of these recommendations, please visit with the department chair or your advisor about finding the courses that are likely to provide you with a successful and happy first year experience.