**The Lantern: Illuminating Your First Year** is a guide to the ins and outs of academic life at Bryn Mawr College.

While classes will be only part of your college experience, they will be the anchor each semester. This first issue of The Lantern focuses on helping you plan your coursework for the fall semester. Our aim is to help you explore pre-existing interests and discover some new ones.

Think of this booklet as containing the basics. But the basics are only the beginning.

The most important source of more detailed information can be found at [moodle.brynmawr.edu](http://moodle.brynmawr.edu). Just click on Dean’s Office Advising 2023.

You won’t register until later in the summer, but the learning and planning can start now!
LETTER FROM THE DEAN

DEAR STUDENTS IN THE CLASS OF 2023,

I am delighted to welcome you to Bryn Mawr! This is a friendly and stimulating community which will demand a great deal of you and will give you much in return. Your classmates are talented students from all over the world who, like you, are eager for all that a liberal arts college offers.

I hope you will give The Lantern your careful attention this summer. It will “illuminate” your first year and help you understand your summer “to-do” list, explore the course catalog, and select courses for the fall semester.

Your dean is an important guide and companion throughout your time at Bryn Mawr, academically and personally. You will hear from your dean this summer and then meet together at scheduled intervals to discuss academic planning and other questions you have. Deans are also available for check-ins anytime. They can help you work through personal and academic snags, advise about college policies, and guide you to other resources.

Of course, your college experience is not just about what happens in the classroom. A Bryn Mawr education endeavors to nourish habits of mind and heart that will serve you well for your whole life. As you explore intellectual interests, we expect that you will be drawn to activities that feed your soul, give you joy, and connect you to others here at the College and beyond. There are dozens of student clubs and organizations as well as opportunities for research, activism, community service, and internships here and at our partner colleges.

For now, as you prepare for this adventure, I hope that you find opportunities for refreshment this summer. When you arrive at Bryn Mawr, we hope you will be ready to greet the new community that awaits you. All of us here are eager to meet you and to get to know you.

Best wishes,

Jennifer L. Walters
Dean of the Undergraduate College
SUMMER OVERVIEW

We can’t wait to welcome you on campus in August! In the meantime, though, you can prepare for your arrival by tackling the to-do list on the back of this newsletter. Here’s an overview of how the summer works:

• **Set up your @brynmawr.edu email address.** This is how we will contact you all summer (and throughout your time at BMC), so be sure to check it regularly. Hint: there’s an Outlook 365 app you can use on your phone to make it easy to access. Each week during the summer, we’ll send important info via the Tuesday Newsletter.

• **Log on to Moodle,** the online learning platform you’ll use throughout your time at Bryn Mawr. Click on **Dean’s Office Advising 2023**—This is where you’ll access and complete many of the items on your summer to-do list, including placement exams, information on choosing courses, and schedules and sign-ups for webinars and summer advising appointments.

• **June 10–14** is Webinar Week! We’d like each of you to attend one webinar during this week to learn more about how to prepare for your arrival in August and to get answers to any questions you may have.

• **Every Wednesday** throughout the summer, we’ll hold additional webinars on varying subjects (from placement exams to financial aid and lots more).

• Take any necessary placement exams and submit your choices for your ESEM (first-year writing seminar) by **July 10.**

• Have a Skype or phone advising appointment with your dean to get to know each other and discuss your course selection for the fall. (Don’t worry if none of the times work out for you; advising appointments will happen during Customs Week too.)

• Preregister for classes via BiONiC between **July 31–August 14.**

• Along the way, keep an eye out for deadlines and complete all the other things on your to-do list to make sure you’re prepared for your arrival.

• **We’ll see you on August 28 (August 27 for international students)!**

*In the meantime, check out our Frequently Asked Questions at www.brynmawr.edu/welcome/incoming-students, post a question to the discussion forum on Moodle, or send an email to welcomebmc@brynmawr.edu!*

**MOODLE:** An online learning platform that you will use throughout your time at Bryn Mawr to see course syllabi and readings, participate in discussion forums, and view some grades. Log on at moodle.brynmawr.edu using your College username and the same password you use for your BMC email.

HOW TO WORK WITH YOUR DEAN

You have been assigned a dean whom you can look to as a partner and resource for academic and non-academic issues throughout your time at Bryn Mawr. Your dean will be your primary adviser for your first two years and will meet with you at least twice a semester to discuss course selection and help you reflect on your journey and plan for the future. You may make additional appointments with your dean at any time to discuss anything from homesickness to time management to extra-curricular activities. Your dean is not only interested in helping you through difficulties, but is also eager to cheer on your accomplishments, both large and small.

Before you even arrive, you’ll get a chance to speak with your dean this summer via phone or Skype. Use the Dean’s Office Advising Moodle page to join advising webinars, fill out your advising questionnaire, and schedule your one-on-one advising appointment.
ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

Bryn Mawr’s college-wide requirements are designed to engage you in a variety of fields, expose you to emerging areas of scholarship, and prepare you to live in a global society and within diverse communities. You have until the end of your junior year to fulfill most requirements. We want you to be aware of them now, but not to worry about fitting them all in your first year!

32 UNITS TOTAL REQUIRED TO GRADUATE

MAJOR 34%
REQUIREMENTS 25%
ELECTIVES* 41%

MAJOR
Most majors require between 10–12 courses in that field. Double majors are possible as well, but only a small percentage of students choose that option.

REQUIREMENTS
• 1 Emily Balch Seminar
• 1 course in Quantitative Methods
• 2 courses in Foreign Language
• 4 courses to fulfill the Approaches to Inquiry (see box)

ELECTIVES
Whatever slots are left over outside of your major and requirements are courses you can take just for fun. Explore a new topic, learn something new...take risks!

MINOR
You can use some of your electives to complete a minor. Most minors require 6 courses. While a major is required, minors are optional.

APPROACHES TO INQUIRY

Students must complete one course each in the following four approaches:

• Critical Interpretation (CI): Critically interpreting works, such as texts, objects, artistic creations and performances, through a process of close-reading. Courses in English, History of Art, Philosophy, and many others often meet CI.

• Cross-Cultural Analysis (CC): Analyzing the variety of societal systems and patterns of behavior across space. CC courses are found throughout many departments, but are particularly common within Sociology, Anthropology, and Education.

• Inquiry into the Past (IP): Inquiring into the development and transformation of human experience over time. Besides the History Department, you may find IP courses in departments such as Archaeology, Growth and Structure of Cities and many others.

• Scientific Investigation (SI): Understanding the natural world by testing hypotheses against observational evidence. SI courses are found not only in Biology, Chemistry, Geology, and Physics, but occasionally in Anthropology, Computer Science, and Psychology.

IMPORTANT THINGS TO NOTE ABOUT COLLEGE-WIDE REQUIREMENTS

1. All students must demonstrate Quantitative Readiness before enrolling in a Quantitative Methods course. See Moodle for more information.

2. Only courses in which you earn a 2.0 (C) or better will satisfy the requirements.

3. The four Approaches to Inquiry (CI, CC, IP, and SI), must be completed through courses in four different departments.

4. Only one of the four Approaches to Inquiry courses may count toward your major.

5. No one course can be used to satisfy more than one requirement.

6. Your dean is happy to help answer questions about the requirements and to help you plan how you will complete them!
HOW TO START BUILDING YOUR FALL SCHEDULE:

• There are two required courses everyone will take in the fall of their first year: The Emily Balch Seminar (a.k.a. ESEM), and THRIVE.

• ESEM is a small seminar where you will learn critical reading, thinking, and writing skills along with other first-year students. Each ESEM has a theme and earns one unit of academic credit—read about the different choices at https://www.brynmawr.edu/academics/emily-balch-seminars and make your selections by July 10.

• THRIVE is a 10-week non-graded “intro to college” course that does not count toward academic credits, but earns you 2 PE credits. It’s a low-stress environment that introduces you to college resources and allows for self-reflection and community-building.

• Other than those, everyone’s schedule will look different! Sure, we offer familiar subjects like Math, History, and Spanish; but check out all the new areas you could explore like Comparative Literature, Gender and Sexuality Studies, Neuroscience, and Russian! Browse courses offered this fall at www.brynmawr.edu/academics/explore-courses.

PE credits are separate from academic credits!
All students must complete 6 non-academic physical education credits before spring break of their sophomore year:

• 2 credits for THRIVE
• 1 credit for the swim proficiency requirement (either via the swim test or the swim class)
• 3 credits of PE from electives or varsity sports (with choices from Archery to Zumba and many in between)

TIPS FROM STUDENTS

“Take a variety of subjects in one semester (don’t take all science or all writing intensive classes) and have at least one class that you’re really excited about, that sparks joy”
- SASHA BAUER, 2019

“When planning back-to-back classes, make sure you have enough time for meals!”
- MAKENNA LENOVER, 2019

“The variety of classes the College offers can be overwhelming at first - take this first semester to take classes that sound interesting to you! Don’t worry about figuring out a major yet (you have so much time) - use this time to explore.”
- KATE WEILER, 2020

“Don’t try to plan your entire 4 years here right away. Just take it one day at a time for now and enjoy your Customs Week!”
- KATE PETROVA, 2020

“It’s okay not to fulfill all your requirements in your freshman year. I didn’t, and it gave me more time to explore possible majors early on.”
- CLAIRE ECKSTEIN-INDIK, 2020

“Take a class at Haverford! Movement between the campuses really could not be easier thanks to the beloved Blue Bus. Personally, I have also found that taking classes there really encourages students to build lasting friendships across both campuses.”
- MOREEN MCGRATH, 2020

“Try something that isn’t offered in high school, like a Sociology, Anthropology, or Geology class. The beauty of a liberal arts college is that you get to experience all sorts of subjects, even if you don’t continue with them in your future career.”
- NATALIE KOGAN, 2021
We want you to have a positive experience in your classes, so that means making sure you are not taking a class at a level that is too advanced or too introductory for your particular experience. Making sure you’re in the right level class is what we mean by “placement.” Placement exams (and more detailed information about them) are available on Moodle and must be completed by July 10.

What Courses Am I Ready to Take? It depends on the field of study! First of all, in many fields, entering students can take classes at the 100-level and 200-level. Just look at the course descriptions in BiONiC to see whether any prerequisites are listed. If none are listed, you are eligible to take that class. If there are prerequisites, you may meet them through placement exams, AP/IB scores, or (in rare cases) a conversation with the professor. First-year students are not usually allowed to take 300-level courses.

Which Departments Have Placement Exams? Only Mathematics and the Foreign Languages have placement exams, which means that not everyone will need to take them.

- The Math department has three placement exams to place students into Calculus 1, Calculus 2, or Multivariable Calculus. If you do not intend to take any of these courses or don’t have any previous Calculus experience, you do not have to take a placement exam at all.

- Each foreign language department offers a placement exam to help students find the appropriate level course.* Even if you have AP or IB credits, most language departments still require you to take a placement exam if you plan to study that language at Bryn Mawr.
  - If you are starting a new language, you simply begin at the beginner level and do not have to take the placement exam.
  - If you plan to continue with a language you studied before, but do not plan to take courses in it your first year, it’s still a good idea to take the placement exam so you’ll be ready for next year.

- The Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Economics, Psychology, and Physics departments may consider AP, IB, or A-level scores in placement. If you are interested in exploring this, please consult with faculty at the Academic Fair during Customs Week.

*Russian and Greek do not have formal placement exams at this time, but if you have prior experience with these languages, you should speak to one of the professors at the Academic Fair during Customs Week.

Confused? Check out the more detailed information about math and foreign languages on the Advising Center in Moodle.
### SAMPLE SCHEDULES

Seeing how other students have laid out their first semester courses can be helpful. A spread between days and times of classes will give you time for studying, eating, work study, and doing other things that are meaningful to you.

**Note:** You should have a total of 4 or 4.5 academic units—ESEM will be one of those units, but THRIVE and PE do not count toward this total.

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<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00  MATH B102 Calculus 2</td>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>11:00 Working in the dining hall</td>
<td>12:00 ESEM Peace, Love, and Understanding</td>
<td>1:00 WRTG B120 Workshop for Multilingual Writers</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>11:00 HART B230 Renaissance Art</td>
<td>12:00 ESEM Peace, Love, and Understanding</td>
<td>1:00 WRTG B120 Workshop for Multilingual Writers</td>
<td>2:00 PE B048 THRIVE Seminar</td>
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<td>11:00</td>
<td>12:00 EMLY B001</td>
<td>1:00</td>
<td>2:00 WRTG B120 Workshop for Multilingual Writers</td>
<td>3:00 PE B048 THRIVE Monday Presentation Series</td>
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<td>12:00</td>
<td>1:00</td>
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<td>3:00 Working in the dining hall</td>
<td>4:00 Working in the dining hall</td>
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- This student took the Math placement test to find out that Calc 2 was the right level.
- Chorale or Orchestra can be taken for .5 academic credit or just for fun. They do require auditions, which will take place during the first week of classes. You can tell that this class is located at Haverford because the class number begins with H instead of B.

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<td>10:00</td>
<td>11:00 FREN B003: Intermediate French</td>
<td>12:00 EMLY B001 ESEM Poverty, Affluence, and American Culture</td>
<td>1:00 FREN B003: Intermediate French</td>
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<td>12:00 EMLY B001 ESEM Poverty, Affluence, and American Culture</td>
<td>1:00 FREN B003: Intermediate French</td>
<td>2:00 BIOL B110 Biological Exploration Lab</td>
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<td>12:00 FREN B003: Intermediate French</td>
<td>1:00</td>
<td>2:00 BIOL B110 Biological Exploration Lab</td>
<td>3:00 POLS B120 Intro US Politics</td>
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- This student took the French placement test to find out Intermediate French was the right level.
- You earn PE credit, not academic credit, for THRIVE. You may choose to take an additional PE class, but you can’t register for that until the first day of classes.
- For science classes with a lab, you will enroll in a particular lab day as well as the lecture.
**SUMMER TO-DO LIST**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Request academic or residential accommodations, if applicable</td>
<td>ASAP</td>
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<tr>
<td>Housing Preference Form*</td>
<td>June 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Webinar Week</td>
<td>Week of June 10-14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advising questionnaire</td>
<td>June 17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Skype advising session with your dean</td>
<td>June 17-July 26</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health Forms*</td>
<td>July 1</td>
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<td>Information Security Tutorial</td>
<td>July 10</td>
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<td>ACT/SAT scores (for quantitative readiness)</td>
<td>July 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Placement Tests (as needed)</td>
<td>July 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>ESEM Preferences</td>
<td>July 10</td>
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<td>One Card Photo</td>
<td>July 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Music Survey</td>
<td>August 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIONIC Tutorial</td>
<td>August 1</td>
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<td>College Bill</td>
<td>August 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strengthsfinder</td>
<td>August 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Preregistration</td>
<td>July 31-August 14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Resiliency Project</td>
<td>August 23</td>
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<tr>
<td>Academic Integrity Tutorial</td>
<td>August 23</td>
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* You will not receive your housing assignment until the Health Center has received your completed health forms.

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**ACADEMIC AND/OR RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATIONS:**

The Access Services office at Bryn Mawr provides support and reasonable accommodations when necessary to ensure equal access for students with learning, physical and/or psychological disabilities. Decisions about appropriate accommodations are made on an individual basis. Since previous accommodations (e.g., those informally given and/or via an IEP or 504 Plan) do not automatically carry over to college, the process to arrange for your accommodations at your new institution does take some time, so start now to ensure everything is in place for your arrival!

If you have a diagnosis, have had an IEP or a 504 Plan in high school and/or for any reason think you might be eligible for academic and/or housing modifications at Bryn Mawr, please contact Deb Alder, Director of Access Services as soon as possible at 610-526-7351 or dalder@brynmawr.edu. For additional information – including eligibility criteria and documentation requirements – please visit the Access Services web page at [www.brynmawr.edu/access_services](http://www.brynmawr.edu/access_services).

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* Continue to check your Bryn Mawr email and read your Tuesday Newsletter for up-to-date information about these items and happenings around campus!*

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