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. Just click on Dean’s Office Advising 2022.

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

DEAR STUDENTS IN THE CLASS OF 2022,

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

I hope you will give The Lantern your careful attention this summer. It will “illuminate your first year” as you explore the course catalog and select courses for the fall semester.

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

As one of your summer checklist tasks on the Dean’s Office Advising 2022 Moodle site, you will complete an advising questionnaire. This will provide your dean with more information about experiences, interests, and questions you’re bringing with you as you enter Bryn Mawr.

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 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
WHAT TO EXPECT OF FIRST-SEMESTER CLASSES

Some of you may have had the opportunity to sit in on a class session if you visited campus as a prospective or admitted student. Or perhaps you are hearing stories of what college classes are like from older siblings or parents. On the other hand, you might never have been to BMC, or you might be first in your family to go off to college.

Whatever your situation now, we want to provide a few words to orient you. There are two classes that EVERY first-semester student takes. One is the first-year writing seminar called the Emily Balch Seminar (aka ESEM). While the focus of each ESEM varies (you’ll get to read the course descriptions later in June), all ESEMs are small, so it will be easy to get to know other first-year students as you engage with texts and build your writing skills. One-on-one conferences are structured into the course, so you’ll meet with your professor in his or her office and discuss ideas, papers, revisions, etc. These conferences can be seen as practice for using “office hours,” the two to three hours per week each Bryn Mawr professor makes available for individual consultation with students. (Since most high school teachers don’t hold office hours, they’re definitely one thing that makes college different and maybe hard to picture.)

THRIVE is the other class all new students take. This is a 10-week, non-graded course that introduces you to campus resources helpful for establishing a healthy lifestyle socially and academically (and earns you 2 of your 6 required PE credits). Since it is ungraded, THRIVE will offer a low-stress facilitated environment for you to meet other first-year students and have discussions about community, ethics, and social justice. You’ll also complete self-reflection and identity exercises designed to help you learn about yourself and about Bryn Mawr.

Beyond ESEM and THRIVE, everyone’s schedule will be different. Your roommate may be taking Arabic every morning at 9, while you may have a marathon chemistry lab Tuesday afternoons. Your ESEM will be all new BMC students; your Urban Culture and Society class may be half Haverford students and half sophomores. Your ESEM prof may have taught at Bryn Mawr for thirty years; your Anthropology prof may be as new as you are. This variety makes for great learning opportunities. Just as an example: those seniors in your History class may or may not know more than you about history, but they do know more about Bryn Mawr! So get to know them and seek out their advice.

The goal this fall is for you to begin to get a sense of what Bryn Mawr’s curriculum has to offer so that you are excited to continue exploring as you move into spring semester.

What Do Deans Do?

Over the summer, you will be assigned a dean who will serve as a partner and a resource for academic and non-academic issues throughout your time at Bryn Mawr. We’re your primary advisers for your first two years and can help you make the transition from high school to college and think through your choice of classes and major. Beyond that, students can talk with us about coping with homesickness, handling roommate problems, or managing extra-curricular activities. We are not only interested in helping you through difficulties, but also eager to cheer on your accomplishments, both large and small.

Our working partnership begins this summer. Join one of our advising webinars or opt for an individual video advising appointment. Dates, descriptions, instructions, and sign-ups will be available through Moodle in mid-June.

In the meantime, please fill out your Advising Questionnaire (on the Dean’s Office Advising Moodle page) soon so we can learn more about you and start to build our relationship! And you can find out more about us on the Meet the Team page on the Welcome website!
The college-wide requirements are designed to engage students in a variety of fields, expose them to emerging areas of scholarship, and prepare them 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 of academic work are required for the A.B. degree. These must include:

- **1 Emily Balch Seminar.** All students take ESEM during the fall of their first year. The small seminar explores broad intellectual questions across and within disciplines, with a focus on honing critical reading and writing skills.

- **The Quantitative Readiness (QR) and Quantitative and Mathematical Reasoning Requirements (QM).** Many students demonstrate QR via test scores over the summer. To fulfill QM, students must take one course that makes significant use of mathematical analysis. Confused? See the Advising Center in Moodle for information and guidance!

- **2 classes to satisfy the Foreign Language Requirement.** For most students, this will mean two semesters of work in a single language. Non-native speakers of English may satisfy this requirement with two courses in English literature. Again, Moodle has guidance!

- **4 courses to meet the Approaches to Inquiry (see inset box)**

- A major subject sequence (typically consisting of 10-12 courses).

- Any remaining units needed to reach 32 are considered electives. Many students will complete a minor, but this is not required.

In addition, all students must complete 6 non-academic physical education credits:

- 2 credits for the required wellness class, THRIVE, to be taken the first semester.

- 1 credit for the swim proficiency requirement (either via the swim test or the swim class).

- 3 credits of PE electives (with choices from Archery to Zumba and many in between).

*Note: At Bryn Mawr, one class generally equals one unit. Many other institutions use credit hours. 1 Bryn Mawr unit is the equivalent of 4 credit hours.

**APPROACHES TO INQUIRY**

Students must complete one unit 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. Examples: 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. Examples: CC courses are found throughout many departments, but are particularly common within the departments of Sociology, Anthropology, and Education.

- **Inquiry into the Past (IP):** Inquiring into the development and transformation of human experience over time. Examples: 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. Examples: 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. Only courses in which you earn a 2.0 (C) or better will satisfy the requirements.

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

3. Only one of the four Approaches to inquiry courses may count toward your major.

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

5. Your dean is happy to help answer questions about the requirements and to help you plan how you will complete them!

**DID YOU TAKE AP, IB, OR A-LEVEL TESTS?**

Check the Registrar’s office website to see which scores qualify for credits. Please note that these credits cannot be used to fulfill any of the above distribution requirements.
WHAT COURSES AM I READY TO TAKE?
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.”

HOW WILL I KNOW WHAT CLASSES I PLACE INTO?
It depends on the field of study! First of all, in many fields, entering students can take most classes at the 100-level and 200-level. Just look at the course description to see whether any prerequisites are listed. If none are listed, you are eligible to take the class.

Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Economics, Psychology and Physics all give some consideration to Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and other test results, but in most cases, it’s not as simple as saying that you placed out of the intro-level courses. Instead, students who have AP or IB credit and are interested in studying those fields should consult with the faculty at the Academic Fair during Customs Week to determine what courses to take. See the FAQs on the Welcome website for more specific information.

The Math Department offers extensive guidance to students to help them figure out their placement. There are three placement tests available on Moodle: one to provide guidance about whether you are ready to take Calc 1 (Math 101), one to provide guidance about whether you are ready to take Calc 2 (Math 102), and one to provide guidance about whether you are ready to take Multivariable Calc 3 (Math 201). Not every student will need to take a placement test. For more information, please consult the guidance provided in Moodle.

In the cases of foreign languages you’ve studied before, placement is usually based on your performance on a Bryn Mawr placement exam, usually taken this summer. Even if you have AP or IB credit for language, most language departments still require you to take a placement exam if you plan to study that language at Bryn Mawr.

Here are some common misconceptions and realities about language placement.

Misconception: Even though I’ve studied the language before, I’ll do best starting from the beginning.
Reality: You probably know more than you think you do. If a class is entirely review, you’re likely to be bored. And because you already know how to speak at some level, you’ll make it harder for others in your class who are true beginners.

Misconception: I’m going to review the language all summer so that I can place into a higher level, because if I don’t, I won’t be able to achieve proficiency/study abroad/etc.
Reality: This really isn’t necessary (or, for most students, realistic). No matter what level you place into, if you are serious about learning the language once you’re here and give that some priority, you will be able to achieve proficiency/study abroad, etc.

Misconception: I’m not going to take foreign language this year, and I’m not sure what language I’ll study, so there’s no reason to take the placement exam.
Reality: Once you’re on campus, you may change your mind and decide to study the language after all. And even if you wait until next year, it will be helpful for you and your advisor to know what your placement is.

You can learn more about each language’s placement process by looking at the FAQs online and the additional info in Moodle.

MOODLE: An online learning platform that you will use throughout your time at Bryn Mawr. Log on at moodle.brynmawr.edu using your College username and the same password you use for your BMC email.

Start using Moodle now—it’s where you’ll find your summer to-do list, take placement exams, register for advising appointments, and complete other tasks in preparation for your arrival at Bryn Mawr.
Explore What’s Offered

Sure, we offer familiar subjects like Math, History, and Psychology; 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.

Things to keep in mind

Notice that course numbering is not entirely consistent. While some introductory courses will be numbered at the 100-level, many are not; elementary languages, for example, are usually numbered 001-002. Many departments allow or even encourage students to start with a 200-level course. 300-level courses, on the other hand, are almost always too advanced for first-year students.

Be on the lookout for information about prerequisites. You may need to take a placement test or provide AP scores to enroll in these courses or may need to wait until a future semester. Consider taking an introductory course this semester so you can take the more advanced course later. Any courses that note “QR” require that you have demonstrated Quantitative Readiness prior to enrolling in them.

Let your curiosity lead the way. Even if you’re not sure how you’ll fit them in, look for courses that really spark your interest! By including courses from very different departments, you’ll cover a wider selection of topics and have variety in the types of assignments you complete.

Explore Haverford. The two colleges share an academic calendar and registration system and the Blue Bus takes students from one campus to the other all day. While we encourage you to take courses at Penn or Swarthmore eventually, please stick to just Bryn Mawr and Haverford for your first semester.
Seeing how other students have laid out their first semester courses can be helpful. Everyone’s schedule will be different, but everyone will have one version of ESEM and THRIVE.

Remember: You should have a total of 4 or 4.5 academic units, and ESEM will be one of those units. A spread between days and times of classes will give you time for studying and eating.

### 2 SAMPLE SCHEDULES FROM FORMER FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS

**SAMPLE SCHEDULE 1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>DAYS/TIMES</th>
<th>UNITS</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EMLY B001</td>
<td>Emily Balch Seminars (Stranger Than Fiction)</td>
<td>TuTh / 11:25 am–12:45 pm</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HART B240</td>
<td>Global Baroque</td>
<td>TuTh / 9:55–11:15 am</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL B110</td>
<td>Biological Exploration 1 (Biology of Cancer)</td>
<td>MWF 9:10–10 am</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL B110</td>
<td>Biology Lab</td>
<td>W 1:10–4:00 pm</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FREN B003</td>
<td>Intermediate French</td>
<td>MWF / 11:10 am–12 pm</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PE Bo48</td>
<td>THRIVE Seminar</td>
<td>Th 2:25–3:45 pm</td>
<td>2PE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PE Bo56</td>
<td>Zumba</td>
<td>WSu 6–7 pm</td>
<td>2PE</td>
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**SAMPLE SCHEDULE 2**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>DAYS/TIMES</th>
<th>UNITS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EMLY B001</td>
<td>Emily Balch Seminars (Poverty, Affluence, and American Culture)</td>
<td>TuTh / 11:25 am–12:45 pm</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUSC H102F</td>
<td>Chorale</td>
<td>W / 6:50–8:50 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>MATH B101</td>
<td>Calculus 1</td>
<td>MWF 9:10–10 am</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENVS B101</td>
<td>Intro to Environmental Studies</td>
<td>TuTh/ 12:55–2:15 pm</td>
<td>1.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>WRTG B120</td>
<td>Workshop for Multilingual Writers</td>
<td>MW / 2:40–4 pm</td>
<td>1.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>PE Bo48</td>
<td>THRIVE Seminar</td>
<td>Tu 4:10–5:30 pm</td>
<td>2PE</td>
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You earn PE credit for THRIVE. You may choose to take an additional PE class, but you can’t register for those until the first day of classes.

For science classes with labs, you will enroll in a particular lab day as well as the lecture.

This student took the French placement exam and placed into the intermediate level.

**The deans want to help you** in your journey to build your first semester schedule. There are many ways for you to participate in advising and get answers to your questions. Over the summer, we will offer some opportunities for you:

- Group webinars where you will get an overview of building a schedule, what’s required, what’s up to you, and what we hope you’ll explore.
- Individual one-on-one video advising with your dean.
- Open drop-in Skype hours for questions during pre-registration weeks with Peer Mentors (current BMC students who help with academic planning and organization).

Advising continues on campus during Customs Week through the Academic Fair with faculty, Advising 101 with your dean, and one-on-one advising sessions.

**SIGN UP ON MOODLE STARTING IN MID-JUNE**
SUMMER TO-DO LIST!

Keep in mind that some items will not be available to you until later in the summer. Check the Dean’s Advising 2022 Moodle page for updates, links, instructions, and opening dates. Items in bold are required for ALL incoming students. Items with an * may or may not apply to you. If you have questions, feel free to email welcomebmc@brynmawr.edu.

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<th>Access Services*</th>
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<td>Housing Preference Form</td>
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<td>Health Forms</td>
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<td>Information Security Tutorial</td>
<td>July 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>ACT/SAT Scores (for quantitative readiness)*</td>
<td>July 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Placement Tests (as needed)*</td>
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<td>Advising Questionnaire</td>
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<td>One Card Photo</td>
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<td>ESEM Preferences</td>
<td>July 11</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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<td>Strengthsfinder</td>
<td>August 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attend an Advising Webinar or have a Skype Advising session</td>
<td>August 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Preregister for fall classes</td>
<td>August 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Resiliency Project</td>
<td>August 24</td>
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<td>AlcoholWise/MarijuanaWise/Consent and Respect</td>
<td>August 24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Academic Integrity Tutorial</td>
<td>August 24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Documentation for student employment*</td>
<td>August 29</td>
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Continue to read your Tuesday Newsletter for up-to-date information about these items and happenings around campus!

ACCESS SERVICES

BRYN MAWR COLLEGE is committed to the full participation of individuals with disabilities in all aspects of campus life and welcomes students with disabilities to the College community. The Access Services office in Guild Hall provides individualized support and reasonable accommodations for eligible students with learning, physical, and psychological disorders.

If you think you may need academic adjustments in the classroom or access in the dormitory or other campus facilities, please contact the 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 pages at http://www.brynmawr.edu/access_services.