

# LAFAYETTE COLLEGE

*Health Professions Program*

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## Update to HPA Guidance: Nitty Gritty Course Considerations for the Class of 2027

We are getting lots of follow-up emails and are happy you are engaged in exploring your course choices for Fall 2023. Thank you for checking in with us. We in HP Advising will rarely tell you what to do, but this is one of those times when we will do that a wee bit 😊!

1. If you haven't yet done so, *send an email* to the Health Professions Advising Office, requesting to be added to our distribution list. How do you do that? First, go online and search the LC webpage for health professions. Find the sidebar where we direct this. Actually, you can take a few minutes to go ahead and explore our site (consider it a scavenger hunt!). We want you to send us a brief email that showcases your wonderful communication skills. Feel free to tell us something about yourself. And demonstrate your professionalism.

2. Follow the links provided there. If you haven't yet done so, READ our welcome note to Class of 2027. Honest. Read it. All of it. We want you to comprehend what we have already laid out for you. We want you to be an active partner with us! By the way, that missive includes our guide to relevant coursework, as well as how to choose among different course options.

3. Please remember that your academic program must have first priority and our co-curricular HP Advising will be a *supplement* to that. Your Common Course of Study and Intended Major requirements take precedence, but realize nearly every course you select early in your career will help propel you forward. Now, it is true—some disciplines are vertically integrated, so completing 100-level work is needed to get into 200-level work, and so on. So be mindful! You can elect any major or degree program so explore now as part of your choices.

4. Complete your MATH and CHEMISTRY and LANGUAGE placement ASAP! We cannot provide relevant guidance without these inputs from you. You need to select these courses so that your needs are met, not only for your health professions aspirations but also for your intended major. And it does no one any good for you to enroll in a course for which you are not adequately prepared. That affects your performance not only in it, but also in other courses.

5. Another question we have received that is critical for follow up: What do I do about AP/IB scores? Only official score reports can be considered for credit. Each department has specific guidelines, e.g., 5 for biology but 4 for history, etc. You may be entitled to AP credit by virtue of your test. But PLEASE NOTE, some health professions schools look skeptically on use of AP credit, especially in core STEM fields. You need to demonstrate competence in college level science with laboratory AND as part of a full course load. So, we caution against using AP credit for STEM courses. If you do elect to use AP credit, it is best to do so for English, writing, social science and humanities courses. And if you do elect to use AP credit in any discipline, consider enrolling in more advanced coursework beyond your introductory AP credit. It demonstrates your aptitude for challenging yourself.

6. Now...*what classes ought you to select for Fall 2023?* You get to solve a puzzle here, fitting together different sections and courses so you maximize your options. Of course, you need your FYS. That leaves three courses to select. If you intend a STEM major you should enroll in the introductory level class in that intended major, and be sure you have options for the lab section. The typical load would also include a collateral science class, so, for example, maybe something like FYS, Biology 111 with lab, Chemistry 107 with lab. Or perhaps something like FYS, Psych 110 and lab, and Neur 201. You get the picture. You are now left with a single course slot—What to choose? Many students like to put a math class in the last slot, or perhaps a language course, or maybe a sociology class. Of course, these choices *depend on your placement and preparation!!* But any of these would be valuable. Use your problem-solving skills to complete the puzzle of a few different scheduling options. And have a few back up courses at the ready in case you need to pivot to a different section.

7. You should now have a relatively plausible class schedule. When you know the timing of your FYS you will be positioned to make any final adjustments. Armed with all of this information, we are confident in your competence to do these tasks independently...

...BUT IN ADDITION...

8. **SAVE THE DATE!** Our First Year and Transfer Student Information Session will be held across lunchtime on the very first Friday of the fall semester, September 1, 2023 from 12 noon until 1 pm. Location and specific details TBA so stay alert for our email (remember? You signed up for them already!). Plan to register for it and **ATTEND!** AFTER you attend to get the basics, we will offer Small Group HP Advising sessions. You will discover how to access these at the Info Session.

9. **STAY TUNED** for your Academic Advisor Assignment. Your Class Dean is working diligently to link you to your AA (Remember? You completed the Advising Survey earlier this summer!). You will want to connect with your AA no later than your first week of classes in case you need to make any course changes.

Remember, your education is in your capable hands! We are here to support you. Your First Year Dean, Alexis Smith, remains your primary point of contact. If after searching for answers, you still have questions, please reach out to her and the Office of the Dean of Advising and Co-Curricular Programs.

Your Health Professions Advising Team