COURSE REGISTRATION GUIDELINES FOR INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE STUDENTS.

The standard full-time course load at Hobart & William Smith Colleges is comprised of FOUR 1.0 unit courses. Usually, that is the load that our exchange students take while at HWS. Exchange students who prefer a lighter work load OR whose degree program at home requires more credit may choose only 3.0 or as many as 5.0 units. We also offer a handful of classes that are worth only 0.5 units. These are usually classes that enable our students to acquire special ‘skills’ but do not have theoretical underpinnings and/or are outside traditional academic areas of inquiry. Examples of half credit skills classes include units on leadership, music and dance instruction, reading groups, emergency medical training, scuba certification and the like. You may elect one or more 0.5 unit classes in addition to the regular full unit courses. Please do note that some 0.5 credit classes (such as SCUBA) require an extra course fee that is NOT covered by the tuition exchange waiver with your home campus.

Each 1.0 unit course equates to the following credit equivalents in your own systems of education:

1.0 HWS = 4 semester hours in semester system (Hong Kong, Korea);
1.0 HWS = 6 ECTS units (European Continent, ERASMUS)
1.0 HWS = 15 credits (UK, Ireland, British system)
1.0 HWS = 25 credit points (Australian system)

When choosing classes, please note: Each academic department at HWS has its own unique three or four letter code. Examples are POL = politics, ECON = economics, ENG = English, etc. Within each department, each course has a three digit number. 100-level classes are introductory, target our first year students, and assume no prior experience in this academic area of inquiry. 200-level classes are at the intermediate level. 300 and 400 level classes are for our most advanced students. Many 400-level classes have strict enrollment caps and are reserved for students in their final year of study who are engaged in a capstone project. You will find that many classes from 200-level up have strict pre-requisites. If you haven’t had a class at your home university that closely matches the content of a pre-requisite class here, then you will not be permitted to enroll in the course.

Classes in the humanities and social sciences generally meet twice per week for 85 minutes or three times per week for 50 minutes. Classes in foreign languages and/or in the natural and physical sciences often require an additional 1-3 hour weekly ‘laboratory’ period. If you are choosing a class with a required lab, the lab days and times are noted immediately following the seminar days and times. In such cases you must register for BOTH the seminar and the lab or you cannot enroll in the class.

Our registration uses scheduling codes. M is Monday; T is Tuesday; W is Wednesday; Th is Thursday; and F is Friday. A handful of classes meet in the evening but most are finished by 5 pm. In the U.S. we use a 12 hour rather than a 24 hour clock, for example 1:30 = 13:30.

Finally, HWS does limit the number of students who can register for any one class. Classes that tend to be in high demand often offer multiple ‘sections’, i.e. Economics 160 “Principles of Economics” may be offered at four or five different times in order to accommodate more students who wish to enroll. In the end, however, it is possible that you will be ‘closed out’ of a class or informed that it is full. In this case you must choose an alternate class. But TELL US if you really must have a particular class here to complete your degree at home. We will do our best to secure permission for you to enroll. To ensure that you wind up with a full course load, please list two alternates for each primary class you request.