

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

WHAT FOLLOWS ARE St. Lawrence's "Aims and Objectives" as they appear in the *Catalog*. We ask that you read these over before you read the rest of this guide so that you can see how the First-Year Program (FYP), your other courses and your life on campus relate to these aims and objectives, which you will discuss at the first meeting of your FYP during Orientation.

A liberal education requires breadth, depth and integration in learning. It also requires the cultivation of those habits of intellectual and moral self-discipline that distinguish a mature individual. To these ends, St. Lawrence seeks to provide an education that fosters in students an open, inquiring and disciplined mind, well informed through broad exposure to basic areas of knowledge; an enthusiasm for life-long learning; self-confidence and self-knowledge; a respect for differing opinions and for free discussion of those opinions; and an ability to use information logically and to evaluate alternative points of view.

A liberal education frees students from the confines of limited personal experiences and knowledge of the physical, historical, social and cultural world. In return, this liberation gives an enlightened understanding of that which is singular, immediate and limited. Thus, a liberal education is always relevant to the world in which students must live at the same time that it attempts to maintain a certain detachment from that world.

A liberal education provides students with many options in the choice of their life's work. Since the very nature of liberal education lies in the continuing exercise of a critical and informed intellect, liberally educated persons demonstrate ability in the pursuit of specific occupations and understand and assume the responsibilities of citizenship. These attributes, however, are the consequences, not the purposes, of a liberal education.

Since the primary commitment of the University is to the intellectual development of the student, it encourages styles of

learning which promote creativity, intellectual resourcefulness and flexibility. In particular, the University recognizes the need to be responsive to new dimensions of knowledge, to promising new techniques of learning, and to the development of individual talents. Hence, St. Lawrence has established curricular objectives that include:

- A depth of understanding in at least one field of study;
- The ability to read, write, speak, and listen well;
- The ability to conduct research and to think critically;
- An understanding of diverse cultures;
- An understanding of scientific principles and methods;
- An understanding of the natural environment;
- An expansion of aesthetic sensibilities and capacities; and
- A personal ethic of considered values.

The University's long tradition of preparing its students for various professions and its deep respect for excellence in teaching and learning at all levels further commit it to a graduate program in education.

The University is also committed to the goal of fostering excellent teaching in its faculty and to assisting its members to realize their full potential as teachers. Effective teaching cannot be divorced from professional competence in the subject matter taught. Active scholarship is strongly encouraged, and the University commits itself to supporting this scholarship through the provision of time and resources.

A primary commitment to the students' intellectual development is complemented by a recognition of students as whole persons living in a culturally diverse world. For this reason, the University also provides an environment that encourages the physical well being and; provides opportunities for moral, social, religious and aesthetic growth, and encourages an expanding sense of responsibility for and service to humanity.



PLANNING YOUR EDUCATION

AS YOU CONSIDER your academic plans, think about planning for **four** years (eight semesters) with consideration for required distribution courses, a major, study abroad (usually in the junior year), and internship opportunities. The idea is to come up with **your** plan. You will adjust this plan along the way, but it's important to see the first semester as the beginning of a sequence of eight semesters leading in the direction you want to go.

In your first semester, you will take four courses:

- One course as part of the First-Year Program (FYP) “college” (residential living-learning unit) to which you are assigned based on preferences you indicate to us.
- Three courses of your choice from among the several dozen throughout our curriculum that are open to first-year students.

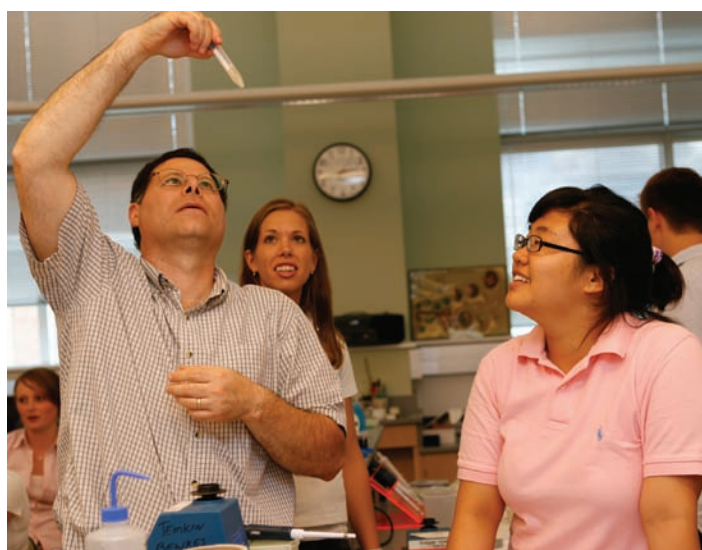
The rest of this section of the *New Student Guide* is designed to assist you in choosing your courses and providing us with information to help you in your academic planning. We first ask you to provide us some information about your academic interests and needs on the **Academic Information** form. This will help your advisor work more effectively with you and enable us to put you in contact with people and offices that match up with your interests and needs. Please fill this information in accurately and completely.

The First-Year Program

One important component of your first year at St. Lawrence will be the First-Year Program (FYP) in the fall and First-Year Seminar (FYS) in the spring. Those faculty who teach fall semester FYP courses work together to design a variety of courses that introduce you to critical issues and questions that humans face. Each course approaches these issues or questions from at least two disciplinary perspectives. No matter which course you are enrolled in, we will introduce you to a liberal arts education; help you develop writing, oral communication and research skills; and assist you in building a living-learning community with the other students in your course. You should read carefully the First-Year Program section that follows so as to learn more about what will be a central part of your St. Lawrence experience.

After you have some understanding of the program, read and consider the descriptions of each of the First-Year Program courses that will be offered this coming semester. Those descriptions are in the FYP course description section that follows. One of the most distinctive aspects of the FYP at St. Lawrence is that you will live with other first-year students who have, because they have intellectual interests similar to yours, been placed in the same First-Year Program course as you.

Keep the material in this section in a safe place — it provides valuable information that you will need over the next few months as you begin the exciting process of becoming a St. Lawrence student.



Your level of interest in the courses will be used to place you into one of these living-learning communities. When you have considered your level of interest in each FYP course, please fill out the **First-Year College Preference** form.

Choosing Your Other Courses

The last part of this section is designed to help you select the three courses you will take in addition to your FYP course. After the FYP information is a listing of the courses that departments and programs are offering in the fall that are open to first-year students. Take time to read this information carefully in preparation for working with an advisor during the summer. Over the summer, you and an advisor will consult to create your “working list” of course choices for fall using our online Academic Planning and Registration (APR) system. You will complete the registration process during Orientation when you arrive in August, but being well prepared for registration will help to ensure a smooth academic start and an enriching beginning to your intellectual journey at St. Lawrence.

Understanding Distribution Requirements

It is the distinguishing mark of liberally educated persons that they are exposed to a broad range of topics and fields of inquiry, but also acquire depth and competence in particular areas of study. The faculty at St. Lawrence has structured the curriculum so that students can choose subject matter and skills from a wide range of majors and minors. To help you achieve the breadth of a liberal education, you must meet a number of curriculum or “**distribution**” requirements, beginning with the First-Year Program (FYP) and First-Year Seminar (FYS). You can begin to meet these requirements as early as your first semester. The distribution requirements in addition to the FYP/FYS are listed below, and courses that meet these requirements have the appropriate three-letter abbreviation in parentheses when they appear in this guide. As you look for courses to take for the fall,



Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) Credit

If you have completed any Advanced Placement exams, be sure to have the Educational Testing Service (ETS) send the results to St. Lawrence. The registrar will then determine whether you will get specific course credit for it. SLU will also grant credit for International Baccalaureate Higher Level Examinations in which a score of 5 or higher is achieved. Credit is **not** awarded for Standard Level examinations. Decisions as to what AP scores count for which courses are made department by department. IB course credit is regarded as transfer credit and is determined by the registrar in consultation with the appropriate department chair. Questions about AP and IB credit should be directed toward the registrar, 315-229-5267. We ask that you provide us with AP scores, or transcripts reflecting any other coursework that might count for college credit, as quickly as possible so that your advisor can make use of that information as you work together to select courses for the fall.

you should note whether or not they meet particular distribution requirements.

- **AEX: Arts/Expression.** A course that provides active learning through creative expression.
- **HUM: Humanities.** A course that involves the critical interpretation of traditional and contemporary works of literature, history, political thought, philosophy, religious studies, and the arts, both visual and performing.
- **SSC: Social Science.** A course that provides an awareness of how economic, political and social institutions can be organized, evidence about them analyzed and social scientific knowledge generated.
- **MFL: Mathematics or Foreign Language.** A course that either develops quantitative reasoning and analytical thought or provides knowledge of a foreign language and understanding of a foreign culture.
- **NSC/NSC-L/SST: Natural Science/Natural Science Lab/ Science Studies.** Two courses that provide a foundation in the natural sciences and the interplay between science and society. At least one of the two courses must include a laboratory (NSC-L).

In order to meet the above distribution requirements, you must take the courses from six different departments or programs. A particular course can be used to meet only one of the distribution requirements.

- **DIV: Diversity.** Two courses from two different departments or programs approved as engaging participants in the critical study of sameness and difference, including diverse social and cultural practices and beliefs, either within or outside the United States. Courses meeting the diversity requirement may also be counted toward other major and minor or distribution requirements, but not toward FYP/FYS requirements.

If a course does not have a three-letter abbreviation, it does not fulfill one of these requirements. A detailed description of each course can be found in the University's 2008-2009 *Catalog*; the page number indicated under each department or program is the page on which that department or program's entry in the *Catalog* begins. Should you wish to call or e-mail one of the departments or programs for more information, you can use the phone number or e-mail address listed in this guide.

But What Should I Take?

The first year of college should be a time for exploring your interests. There are no specific courses that you must take, other than FYP and FYS. Distribution requirement courses can be taken at any time during your four years, although doing them early is better. You should go through the course listings that follow and find courses that look interesting to you. You can pick things you are familiar with and know you're good at and about which you are passionate, but you should also be willing to try something new that interests you. Unless you are very sure about what you want to major in, and that major is a field in the sciences that requires a more specific curriculum, you should indulge yourself by taking whatever courses you have a passion for. You do not have to declare a major until the spring of your sophomore year, so there's no reason to be overly worried about the requirements of particular majors. If you intend to major in the sciences (especially biology, chemistry or physics) or plan to do a pre-med curriculum, you should mention this immediately to your advisor over the summer so that you can pick the more specific courses you'll need to have to start on those programs of study and get a second advisor in the sciences.

A complete explanation of how to plan and complete a successful educational experience at St. Lawrence can be found in the *University Catalog*. More thorough guidelines for living successfully in the St. Lawrence community, primarily socially but also academically, are provided in the *Student Handbook*, a copy of which is given to each student at the beginning of the year, or it can also be viewed online at www.stlawu.edu/student_handbook. Students are responsible for knowing the information in the handbook.