First-Year Voices
Preparation for the Second Semester
Aiyanne Payne

The first semester is coming to an end, and the second semester is almost here. The main question is am I ready for registration to start all over again? I have prepared for registration by meeting with my advisor, going to ratemyprofessor.com, choosing the classes that best fits me, and having a backup plan. At first, I didn't know where to start or who to talk to about choosing my classes, which informed me to ask for help. I've come to realize registration may seem easy, but to make wise decisions that can reflect on the future is the bigger picture.

First, I had taken a look at my curriculum sheet to balance out my classes and see what I needed to take in order to move on to further classes. For example, in order to take a Human Services course, a psychology class must be completed with an average of a C to move on to major level classes. Looking back on my first semester, I had only taken twelve credits. Now that I know how the college lifestyle works, I should push myself into taking fifteen credits, so I can get ahead if possible and graduate on time. To elaborate on my schedule now, I seem to procrastinate more than usual because I have a lot of time on my hands, rather than to just get it done and out of the way. From this experience, I felt as though I should have pushed myself to take an extra course rather than not working to my full potential.

Another subject to focus on is the type of class for me to take, and search for the professor who will fit best for my learning style. By having a late preview this summer, my options for what classes to choose from were limited. Going into the second semester, I have researched some professors and set up suggested time frames for certain classes. By meeting with my advisor and communicating with upperclassmen with the same major,
they have given me advice and helped answer the questions that I needed. My advisor told me what was needed and how most underclassmen choose their schedule, which made my outlook reflect on what to expect as the year progresses. With the help of my peers, their advice helped more than I thought since they have already went through the process, but they have told me what to expect and what I could do to prevent bad decisions. A student should research the classes he/she is required to take rather than taking one that isn't needed.

In conclusion, the answer is yes I am ready for registration for the spring semester. I have what I need to register and have taken the advice being given by my advisor and upperclassmen. Rather than being nervous like I was at first, I am actually prepared and more confident about choosing my classes. My advice would be to take advantage of any opportunity being given because the choice can reflect the future and help to accomplish goals. I am thankful to have the help that I needed because now I have more confidence in myself to register for classes. If there is doubt in a decision, then the choice may not be the right one, but if there is no doubt, the decision may be a good start. I've came to the conclusion that I have no doubt in my decision which leads me to being prepared for any obstacle, and to know that I have accomplished preparing for registration with no hesitation.
Registration begins in a few weeks. I met my advisor at Preview in June but not on a personal level. My appointment with my advisor is only a week away, so I have already planned what I will discuss with her. I want to explain my future goals, as well as, what she considers will be the best route for me to reach these goals, my current grades, and which courses I plan on taking next semester.

My childhood dream has always been to be a nurse. As time has progressed, the urge has only grown stronger, and my dream has slowly transformed into my reality. Two years ago, I was enrolled in the Highland Springs Technical Center, and completed the Nurse Aide course. This course taught me all the basics of nursing. I learned not only the importance of caring for patients but, the significant role nurses play in society. To further carry out my goals, I plan on finishing these four years at Old Dominion University and become a registered nurse and then go to medical school to become an anesthesiologist. I would like to ask my advisor how she thinks I should go about reaching my dream.

Currently, I am enrolled in four courses, which includes Sociology, Chemistry, Math, and Basic Writing. My most difficult class is Sociology. Chemistry had given me difficulty during the beginning of the year, but my current grade is an A. In high school, Math was always tough for me to understand, but my math class this semester has given me a new outlook on math, and my teacher has made everything
effortless. My Basic Writing course has taught me much more than I ever expected. I am happy to say that I have A’s and B’s my first semester in college.

I’m still taking General Education courses, which require me to take electives as well as courses I need for my major. I need to review the course catalogue as well as discuss the courses with my advisor, in order to ensure that I’m on the route to future success.

I will discuss my future goals with my advisor as well as, what she considers will be the best route for me to reach these goals, my current grades, and which courses I plan on taking next semester. Talking with my advisor will make everything simpler for me. Also, the plan will put me on the right path to reach my goals.
The time has finally come for spring registration to begin. As first semester comes to an end, it is now the time to consider all of the many possibilities in store for my second semester. By excelling in the many steps towards graduation, I am preparing for a bright and promising future. After much careful thought and consideration, I scheduled an appointment to meet with my academic advisor on November 11, 2013. I hope during my visit with my advisor that I can gain valuable information on the various career paths within my chosen major. I want to learn more about the necessary courses that best fit my major, and to gain additional knowledge as needed.

Recently, I've decided to make a courageous decision about my career. My decision was to change my degree from a doctoral degree to a master's degree. I made this change due to money constraints, as well as the amount of time it takes to achieve a doctoral degree. Ever since I changed my degree to a master's degree, I'm not certain of what I can do with this degree. I want to be sure to have a career in mind before I move forward towards a particular major. I'm hoping my advisor can assist me in terms of what career opportunities I am able to pursue with a master's degree in psychology. I know that psychology is such a broad field, but I am optimistic that my advisor can offer me some guidance in narrowing down some career choices that would be suitable for me.

Being a psychology major puts me under the umbrella of the College of Sciences. I know that I have to take three science courses. Biology and Chemistry are two science classes that are recommended for my particular course of study. My plans are to speak to my advisor about the other classes I should also consider taking during my next semester at school. I want to make sure I take classes that will not be overwhelming for me the next year. For example, I don't want
to take a math and science course or two science courses during the same semester. I want to experience success at Old Dominion University and I feel that communicating with my advisor will bring me one step closer to accomplishing that goal.

My future is probably one of the most important things to me. I want to make sure I do everything I can to experience a comfortable and successful life. Therefore, I hope my advisor can inform me about that necessary requirements needed for graduation. For example, some majors require that college students need internships in order to complete the program. Some even require that students work a certain number of internship hours to fulfill those requirements. In most cases, it can definitely help a student create an impressive resume for future employers. Enlisting the help of an advisor is a wise choice in preparing a student for the final steps leading towards graduation day.

My advisor is a very important resource person for me at school. Meeting with my advisor will be very helpful for me, because there's so much I still need to learn and want to learn about college life. I hope the visit with my advisor allows me to become more informed about my major, the courses I need to take to graduate, and any other additional steps needed in the process.
Daniel Galaviz

Essay #4

The college registration period can be very stressful and hectic experience especially for first year students. This period can be stressful because of time constraints, unpreparedness, and technical difficulties. Without developing a plan, I could be forced to register for classes I do not wish to take and settle for class times that are inconvenient. So, to avoid these problems and be sure of a pleasant experience, I plan to have all necessary information prepared ahead of time, register as early as possible, and use a well performing computer.

Being well prepared is the most important part of the registration period. My preparedness will help me turn a stressful experience into a smooth one. I plan to meet with my academic advisor to discuss prerequisites, future courses, and credits to be sure I will graduate on time in four years. I will also look online at courses that are offered to get an idea of class times and professors offered. Class times are important because they need to fit into my schedule. Having all the information I need will help me be ready and avoid any confusion when the registration time comes.

In college, I find procrastination is something that should be avoided at all cost. The earlier something can be done the better. Before the registration period, I was emailed a time ticket. A time ticket is an electronic slip indicating the date and time I may register for my spring and summer courses. Since I am only allotted a certain amount of time, I am put under a time constraint. I will be registering as soon as possible to increase my chances of choosing the best courses I can. If I register later in the day, I take the risk of many classes being full or scheduled
at an inconvenient time. In the event that I run into one of these problems, any complication could throw off my schedule for work or other extracurricular activities.

Something often overlooked during important periods such as registering for classes is using a well performing computer. Using a well performing computer is important because running into technical problems can result in not registering for classes or not registering for classes that I want. I will use a known good computer that has an updated browser and good wireless connection. Using a personal computer and not a public computer will reduce my risk of running into any corrupted files or viruses.

In conclusion, I am ready for my registration period, and I will prepare by having all the information I need ahead of time to avoid wasting time and developing confusion. I will also register as early as possible to gain access to good and time convenient classes. Lastly, I will use a well performing computer to avoid any technical difficulties. Having a plan is the most important part, so the earlier plan can be put together the better.
College is a new experience, for many people. Balancing studying, homework, and social time is a big responsibility. This is why it helps to have an academic advisor, it takes some of the workload off student’s backs. When I met with my academic advisor, we discussed three essential things. My intended major, my upcoming courses for the spring semester, and she told me other ways to be successful throughout my time at Old Dominion.

Picking a major is one of the most important things to do in college, this is why I felt the need to make my decision early! So, I chose mine when I met with my advisor in October. I chose to major in the field of Physician Assistant, because its been my dream to work in the medical field. A physician assistant (PA) is a medical professional that works as part of a team with a doctor perform certain tasks. Now that I picked a major I have to follow a curriculum.

This curriculum consist of many strenuous classes. Some of the courses listed as a requisite in the curriculum are; Biology, Chemistry Psychology and philosophy to name a few! However, in the spring I will be taking English 110, Health 120, Communications 112, Exercise Science 225 and Philosophy 110. It takes a lot of hard work and studying to be successful in college.

However, being successful in college does not always start on exam day. My advisor told me “It’s the little things that will lead to the big payoffs.” Initially, it all starts with attending class and taking good notes. I have to sit down and organize my time throughout the day. Make sure I have enough time to do homework, eat during the day and of course study. Study habits
are essential to doing well on exam day, doing the little things like studying and paying
attention, will bring success on the day of the test.

In conclusion, meeting with Denisse Thillet, my academic advisor was a key milestone in
my young college career. During my meeting with Mrs. Thillet I selected my major, selected
spring semester classes and discussed new ways to be successful in college. Ultimately meeting
with her is putting me one step closer to my goal of becoming a Physician Assistant.
Joyy Aye

Registration for the spring semester is scheduled to begin within a few weeks. I have made an appointment to see my advisor. My appointment was on Monday, November 4, 2013. That day is when I met up with my advisor, Katherine Ferrara. My appointment with my advisor lasted thirty minutes. Within this time, we discussed a plan for my failure in math and how I could raise my grades, what courses I will be taking next semester, and how I will go about managing my time.

In the past, I have been struggling in math, and I would always get extra help from my teachers or tutors. Math is not my favorite subject at all, but I try my hardest. Currently, I am failing math, which is not good. At the meeting, my advisor and I talked about what I have been doing so far to get better in math. I said that I have been reading all the chapters that my professor assigns his class to read, and I have been going to tutoring every Wednesday at Rogers mains lobby when I am available. I do the practice tests that he gives out when test time comes around, and I have been seeing my professor after class when I do not clearly understand the material. My advisor said these strategies were a great idea to start the semester off with.

The courses I should be taking next, if everything goes as well this semester, are Chemistry 107 (lecture), chemistry 108N(lab), Statistics 130M, Dance, English 101, and Psychology. I honestly do not know how to feel about these subjects that I will be taking, but I need to be ready for the subjects either way. With the way my grades are looking now, I will probably have to retake math because I am currently failing. I am hoping I pass all my other classes this semester.
Time management is learning how to use time wisely. As my advisor and I spoke about time management, I explained to her that I do have a lot of free time in my schedule this semester. My advisor wants me to see if I can fit another class into my schedule next semester, so that I would not have a lot of time to waste next semester. I am taking my time to think about this because the courses I will be taking next semester are a lot harder than this semester.

In conclusion, my meeting with my advisor went very well. My advisor and I discussed a plan for my failure in math. We also talked about how I could raise my grades. The courses I will be taking next semester, and how I will be going about managing my time were some topics I made plans for at my meeting with my advisor. I am really hoping to finish this semester on a good note, and next semester on an even better one.
The registration period for first year students will begin in a few weeks, and I have to start thinking about courses that I want to register for. There is a mix of general education courses as well as major specific courses that I get to choose from. For example English and history being general education courses, and political science being one of my major courses. I am ready and prepared for November 22, my registration day. I prepared by meeting with my advisor, researching specific classes, and focusing on my major.

Before registering for classes next semester, I had to have a mandatory appointment with my advisor. I scheduled an appointment with my advisor the first week she was available so that I could get the advising hold off of my account. If I didn’t get my advising hold off, I would have not been able to register on time. When I met with my advisor, we discussed my four year plan, and classes that I needed to take in order for me to graduate on time. This process included going onto degree works, Leo online, and discussing the classes I should be taking according to my major. It took some time figuring out the best plan for me but it was worth it. I went into the meeting unsure and second guessing myself, but I left out confident with my four year plan and the classes that I’d chosen for the spring semester. My advisor gave me the reassurance that I needed while I prepared for registration.

As part of the registration process, an important portion was that I look into my general education classes that I needed to get complete. In order to have space for my major coursework I prioritized, and got most of my general education courses finished with during this semester. I knew that I needed to have completed a math class, English, and history class before I could start
focusing on my major courses, so I did just that. I spent about an hour a day looking up courses, understanding the different levels to the courses, and times they were offered so that I could make no mistake. At first I had some doubts that I wouldn’t be able to get the specific classes I needed because the classes would be full, but I was confident that since I planned out my schedule beforehand, I would be okay. When November 22 comes, I will be ready to select my courses for next semester.

While preparing for registration I already know what I am majoring in, so it wasn’t difficult to figure out the classes I wanted to take. Being a double major in foreign languages and international studies, I knew that there was going to be extra courses I would need to take to fulfill my requirements. While developing my four year plan with the help of my advisor I can confidently say that I am ready for when my registration date arrives and begin the new semester in the spring.
Essay #4

At college level, registering for classes has become a key aspect in my experience as a student. However, many students may not realize how much planning actually takes place in the registration process. In my case, to prepare for this event, I first decide which classes I need to take based on my degree plan. Second, I make an appointment with my college advisor to ensure that the classes I choose will benefit me in the upcoming semester. Third, I register for the classes previously selected and plan my schedule to fit each class. These three phases are very important for a successful registration.

Before I begin registering for classes, I first take note of all the classes listed on my degree plan. Then, I focus only on those that have prerequisites. I make a habit to complete all my prerequisites first. This way, for the semesters to follow, I will be able to take classes required on my degree plan without having to worry about prerequisite classes that might create a delay in my academics. Also, I plan to finish all my general classes first before moving on to my specific major courses.

The second aspect I consider when preparing for class registration is making an appointment with my college advisor to ensure that the classes I choose are following my degree plan efficiently. Talking to my advisor, a person who has knowledge of many degree requirements and who works constantly with students, also gives me a sense of reassurance that I am on the right path toward achieving my bachelor’s degree on a timely basis. Therefore, the relationship between student and advisor is an important one based on mutual trust.

My third step in preparing for class registration actually involves taking the time to schedule my days and register for the classes I have previously chosen. This last part can become somewhat tedious because when it comes to scheduling, planning and carefully thinking through the process is necessary,
so that no aspect of importance is omitted. I must focus on logistics, ensuring that I can arrive at all my
classes in the hour given by placing attention on how long it will take to travel from one class to the
next. I also make sure I have plenty of time for homework and studies. Furthermore, a balance must
exist between studies and the job I will need to help support myself. Last, but equally important, I
schedule in relaxation and friends.

This process of registering for classes has proven successful in my first year of college. The time-
consuming acts of choosing the right classes, making appointments with my advisor, and scheduling my
days have proven very effective. Even though the process is lengthy, a successful registration process is
a necessary and important step to achieving my educational goals.
As the anxiety sets in, I am forced to make decisions about my spring 2014 schedule. Planning is not my strongest skill, so I am constantly reminding myself not to forget things. As the fall semester winds down and my stress level rises, I plan on preparing by having a draft schedule, a back-up plan, and a list of advice/concerns from my advisor. Using the combination of these three tools will give me a great advantage.

Preparing a draft schedule will greatly help me when registering for classes. I am always looking for shortcuts, so using draft schedule will help guide me when picking the classes. Through DegreeWorks, I am able to make a draft schedule and see the required classes for my major. Since my major is Nursing, I have to take several science general education classes and one math class. My draft schedule, as of now, has Psychology, Chemistry, Statistics, and English 110C. These classes will be more challenging than the classes in I am currently enrolled in. However, these classes have to be taken at some point, so it’s better for me to get them out of the way. My draft schedule will also include the number of credit hours I hope to be around. Currently, I am taking thirteen credit hours and it seems like a perfect balance. I am also working, so that is why it is very important that I don’t overwhelm myself with a bunch of credit hours. My draft schedule is an important tool for me because it will help with registering and it will also help to create a back-up plan.

Throughout my life, I am learning more and more about the importance of a back-up plan. For whatever reason, it seems like I don’t have very good luck. Thinking ahead of time and creating a back-up plan helps to steer me in the right direction. I can recall countless times that something was taken up or cancelled and I was lost because I didn’t have a backup plan. For
registration, I plan on having my back-up plan right next to me. This will help secure my chances of getting the classes I want. It’s very important that I register for classes as soon as it is made available for me to do so. Having a back-up plan allows me to quickly find second-choice classes. Even if this saves me five minutes, it will greatly help me pick the classes I want. By having a back-up plan I can guarantee I get the times that I need. With the help of my back-up plan and my advisor’s advice, my schedule will be impeccable.

After meeting with my advisor, I was informed on the classes and GPA I need in order to get into the nursing program. My advisor thinks I have a good shot at getting into the program. Thus picking the right schedule is very important to help my chances of getting into the program. I intend on making a list of suggestions and concerns that my advisor said to me. This will help prevent me from picking the wrong class or making a schedule that is too difficult. I will refer to this list as I am building my schedule to prevent mistakes and guide me throughout the registration process.

In conclusion, having a schedule, back-up plan, and a list of suggestions from my advisor will help make a strong schedule. My schedule will be flexible and not too difficult, so I can balance my studies with work. Hopefully, using these 3 tools will help me to quickly grab the classes I need, so I can continue killing myself, by studying for finals.
An advisor is someone that can be counted on and who is vital for me to take the time to build a huge relationship with. My academic advisor will be one of the most important guides for me in college. It is crucial that I prepare myself for the first meeting with my advisor. The advisor is there to answer any general questions that I may have about the college's curriculum. As I approach my advising appointment, I plan to discuss what courses that is mandatory for my major, details about minoring, and how many summer classes I may need to finish in four.

The main question that I plan to ask my advisor is about the courses that are available. It is important that I make sure I completely make it through my major knowing all that is mandatory. This will allow me to gain knowledge so that I don’t end up taking the wrong classes that I don’t need. Also adding to that, these classes aren’t free to just be messing around with and taking for no reason. This meeting with my advisor will hopefully give me a better direction towards making it to the end to graduate. Receiving the info about all my classes needed in the future will give me an outlook on everything and on what other things I might have to do.

I’ve had the idea of maybe minoring in something as a backup or even just to help me for job opportunities. I am not really sure on the whole minoring process and how many credits I would have to get. I know it would put a lot of extra work on me, but I think I could handle it. I will bring this up to my advisor when I meet with her. Hopefully it will help me to think about if I really want to pursue a minor or not.

After the fact of knowing what classes I may need, I then plan to propose the question on how many summer classes I may have to take in order to be done with college and have my degree in four years. I really don’t plan on going more than four years if I don’t have to. I’m so ready to move on with my life as soon as possible. So hopefully my advisor will be able to come up and sketch out the best path for me to take in these next years of my life.
I will benefit a lot from the academic advisor meeting when I attend it. There will be tons of knowledge that will be thrown at me. I plan to take in everything and use it to my best interest to make it through college in a way that I see myself completing it.