

Course
Pre-Registration
Fall 2018 Semester



MARY BALDWIN
UNIVERSITY

A Summary of Course Selection and Registration

Welcome to Mary Baldwin University, where you will find the confidence to lead, the compassion to serve and the courage to change the world! You are now on your way to becoming MBU-Ready. This course selection guide will get you started on the path.

Naturally, it is very important to begin with a good schedule! You need a schedule that is challenging and interesting and that gets you off to a good start.

This Guide will help you prepare to choose around 10 courses you are interested in taking during your first semester at Mary Baldwin University. First-Year students typically take 12 – 15 semester hours (4 – 5 courses) during their first semester of college. The pre-registration choices you give us, along with your academic background and subjects of interest, will help us to create the right Fall 2018 course schedule for you.

During the summer, Mary Baldwin sponsors four Summer Orientation days. All new students are strongly encouraged to attend one of those days. At that time, you will meet other students, review your schedule, and take care of many other matters that will make your transition to College easier. You can get your student ID, get your MBU e-mail, see your residence hall, and talk to financial aid specialists. There will be special information sessions for parents as well. Watch for more information soon!

We urge you to read the information in this booklet carefully. It has been designed to contain the academic information new students need to make a smooth transition to college and to Mary Baldwin University.

The more you know, the more successful your college career will be.

Your success is our goal!

If you have any questions about procedures or course selection, email us at FirstYear@marybaldwin.edu

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An MBU Education: Overview

In your first two years at Mary Baldwin, you will typically complete your general education courses. The farther along you go, the more you will specialize in the courses in your major.

You may graduate with one of three bachelor's degrees: the Bachelor of Arts, the Bachelor of Science, or the Bachelor of Social Work. The Bachelor of Science degree is only available in certain majors and generally requires a heavy emphasis on math and lab science. The majors currently offering the BS option are **math, biology, business, chemistry, economics, physics and psychology**. Only social work majors can get the Bachelor of Social Work. All other majors offer the Bachelor of Arts degree.

All students must complete the Mary Baldwin University general education and core curriculum requirements which are outlined in the next section and are typically structured as survey courses introducing students to various liberal arts approaches and concepts. These requirements give students a strong liberal arts core, along with college-level competencies, ensuring a broad education in the major branches of human knowledge appropriate to a college graduate. Students may also complete a variety of non-liberal arts, or pre-professional coursework through majors, minors, and elective courses.

All students must also complete a **major**, an academic specialty. During your first year, we will not “officially” assign you to a major, even though you may know exactly what it will be. You may officially declare your major after your first semester, though many students don't decide on a major until their second year. You may major in one of MBU's 37 established major fields, or you can design your own **independent major** with the help of faculty. Around five percent of our graduates manage to double major, or complete two majors. All majors require the completion of a significant project during the senior, and sometimes junior, years.

If you wish, you may complete one or more minors. A minor is like a “mini-major,” with 18-24 credit hours required and no final senior project. Minors are very popular: over half of our graduates complete minors.

Practically every student will have electives in addition to major, minor, and general education requirements. Electives are courses you take for personal interest, self-development, or to complement majors or minors. Electives are very important because they give you the ability to fully individualize your education and explore diverse interests and talents.

General Education and College Core Requirements

The average worker changes careers at least five times, and the number is growing. It has never been more important to have a broad-based education that gives you the tools you need to adapt to the rapidly changing job market. Also, employers consistently say that they are looking for employees who are well educated, not just trained in specific skills.

Mary Baldwin's general education program is designed to ensure that all students, whatever their majors, graduate with an appreciation of a variety of intellectual disciplines along with the ability to read, write, and think critically commensurate with a first class baccalaureate education. During your four years at Mary Baldwin, you will choose courses to complete this general education program.

All courses counted toward general education can also count toward majors and minors.

ARTS – 6 hours in at least two disciplines. Includes courses in studio arts, as well as history, appreciation, and literature of arts, music, and theatre

HUMANITIES AND HISTORY – 6 hours in at least two disciplines. Includes courses in literature, philosophy, religion, and history

NATURAL SCIENCE – 6 hours in at least two disciplines. Includes courses in biology, chemistry, physics and physical science, psychology with lab.

SOCIAL SCIENCE – 6 hours in at least two disciplines. Includes courses in anthropology, criminal justice, political science, sociology, some psychology, and economics

THEMATIC – 3 hours. A seminar centering on a theme of enduring importance addressed through multiple perspectives

GLOBAL STUDIES – 6 hours. Includes some study abroad, courses taught in English which emphasize modern international issues, or at least 6 hours of one modern spoken language

RACE & ETHNICITY IN THE U.S. – 3 hours. Includes courses from a variety of disciplines

GENDER STUDIES – 3 hours. Includes courses from a variety of disciplines

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT – 1 hour. Includes internship or courses from a variety of disciplines

PHYSICAL EDUCATION – 2 hours. Includes a principles of health/fitness class and one hour of activities

COMPETENCIES: Writing Emphasis (6 hours; plus 3 hours freshman comp) and Oral Language (3 hours)

QUANTITATIVE REASONING – 6 hours in at least two disciplines. Includes Math above 130, statistics, or various courses identified as quantitative reasoning

RESEARCH – 4 hours. Includes 1 hr. Information Literacy course and 3 hours of a research in context course

Your First Year

A crucial part of getting off to a good start in college is good advising. All new students have an advising team made up of a Faculty Advisor and a Peer Advisor, and are enrolled in MBU 101: Orientation to College. This is a semester-long course led by your advising team. It provides a structure in which you will get to know your classmates and Mary Baldwin University, and it will help you explore the many options which are open to college students.

Your Faculty Advisor will help you navigate the academic pieces of your college experience and plan your academic program, as well as teach you about all of our academic resources. Your Peer Advisors will help you adjust to college life and all of the wonderful experiences to come. Once you declare your major, you will move from your First-Year Faculty Advisor, to an advisor in your major field.

During Summer Orientation you will have opportunities to meet with registration consultants to ask questions regarding your schedule if necessary.

When you arrive for Move-In in August, you will participate in an Academic Orientation before your classes begin. You will meet your Faculty Advisor and Peer Advisors during this time, and learn more about your classes. Any additional changes to your class schedule can be accomplished at this time.

The Office of First-Year Experience looks forward to working with you to make sure your transition to Mary Baldwin University is the best it can be!

Contact us at
FirstYear@marybaldwin.edu.