Frequently asked questions about first-semester schedules, by topic

**General Information**

**How were my classes chosen?**

Based on the information submitted in your online Advising and Registration Form, academic advisors selected courses necessary to explore your interests and meet Integrations Curriculum requirements.

Among the majors/pre-professional programs you listed, the most highly structured program received priority. This strategy allows for greater flexibility should you ultimately opt for a less structured program or later choose to study abroad for a semester.

Refer to Sample Schedules on the Academic Advising website to see the recommended first semester course work for majors and pre-professional programs.

**How many credits and classes are in a typical schedule?**

Students typically take 15-18 credits in the first term. (Full-time enrollment is 12-18 credits per semester.)

Minnesota students who have a Minnesota State Grant will need a minimum of 15 credits.

Registration is maintained within 18 credits and accommodates majors that require additional 1-2 credit courses (e.g. ensembles and lessons for music).

**Why am I registered for more than 18 credits?**

This may be due to credit earned via AP or IB exams. If the course title is “AP/IB…” and the course number ends in “Z-99A” these are credits you have earned by exam. It is not a class you will need to attend in the fall.

Students in ROTC may also exceed 18 credits due to Military Science course work.

If necessitated by your major and/or scholarship requirements, you may have a science lab or a music ensemble for zero credit.

**What are some typical first-semester courses?**

- A first-year Integrations requirement:
- INTG 100 Learning Foundations (4cr) or INTG 200 Learning Explorations (2 cr) if PSEO credit for college writing, or
- Cultural and Social Difference: Identity course (4 cr)

- **Introductory courses in your areas of interest.** Note that some majors and pre-professional areas (sciences, global business leadership, pre-health, and education) require specific coursework in the first semester for a smooth four-year plan.

- **Language** coursework toward meeting the requirement for college level intermediate proficiency. If starting a language at the beginning level, three semesters are required for intermediate proficiency.

- **Additional course to explore other interests** and/or fulfill Integrations Curriculum requirements.

**What would my schedule be if my interests change?**

Sample Schedules based on major, minor and pre-professional interests are available at the Academic Advising website.

**Can I change my schedule?**

Yes, students may work with an academic advisor to make schedule adjustments during orientation and through the first day of each block.

If your interests have changed, contact Academic Advising as soon as possible (320-363-5687) regarding changes to your fall schedule.

**Block Scheduling**

**What is block scheduling?**

In the block schedule, students will typically take one four-credit course at a time. Each block is four weeks long. At the end of a block, the course will be complete; the next block’s course will begin the following Monday.

All first-year students will be in INTG 105 College Success, a one-credit course, which will meet once a week throughout the fall semester.

**Why is CSB/SJU using block scheduling?**

Block scheduling allows the college and university to best support the well-being of the community and the academic success of students during the uncertainties of COVID-19. By reducing the amount of travel between campuses and the number of classes each student attends each day, we can better limit the spread of any illness on campus.

Additional information about the block schedule is available in the **COVID-19 Fall Response webpage**.
AP/IB Exam Scores and Transfer Credits

Are my Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate credits included?

If CSB/SJU has received your official exam results, credits earned via Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) exam scores will appear on your fall schedule. If the course title is “AP/IB…” and the course number ends in “Z-99A” these are credits you have earned by exam. It is not a class you will need to attend in the fall.

Not all departments award academic credit for AP or IB scores. [Advanced Placement](#) and [International Baccalaureate](#) policies are available online.

Received AP and IB test scores for each student are posted in Banner Web, under “Test Scores.” This is a good way to confirm that CSB/SJU received your official scores.

How do I request that my official AP or IB scores be sent to CSB/SJU?

Instructions and information about requesting official scores is available at the Registrar’s Office Website. Choose [Advanced Placement](#) or [International Baccalaureate](#) for specific information.

Why are my classes/credits from other colleges not showing up?

Post-secondary or College in the Schools courses do not appear on your fall schedule though they were taken into consideration if you noted them on the online Advising and Registration form.

If you have provided official college transcripts reflecting completion of course work through other colleges, the Registrar’s Office will send a transcript evaluation to your CSB/SJU email address. Recommended: create an “Academic Information” folder to keep this information well-organized.

Credits earned through other colleges will be posted to your CSB/SJU transcript after the 10th day of the semester. You will be notified via email when final evaluations are completed, and records are updated for viewing on Banner Web.

How can I transfer the college credits I have earned elsewhere?

If you have not already done so, request that official transcripts be sent from the college where credit was earned to the Office of the Registrar:

    College of Saint Benedict
    Office of the Registrar
    37 College Avenue
    St. Joseph, MN 56374

For questions regarding transfer credits, contact Barbara Novak, Assistant Registrar, at [bnovak@csbsju.edu](mailto:bnovak@csbsju.edu).
Specific Courses

What is INTG 105 College Success?

All first-year students will take this one-credit College Success Course, meeting once a week throughout the first semester. This course will help you navigate information and resources, clarify your purpose and direction, meet academic expectations, and engage fully in the CSB/SJU experience.

Due to course goals and information that are specific to CSB/SJU, this course cannot be completed via transfer credit from another college.

Why are there two locations for my INTG 105 College Success class?

To maximize the in-person class experience, INTG 105 classes will use both classrooms and will be moderated by the instructor and a peer mentor. Watch for email from your instructor for more specific information about your first class meeting.

What is INTG 100 Learning Foundations?

INTG 100 Learning Foundations is a required four-credit course to be completed either fall or spring semester of the first year at CSB/SJU. Faculty from a variety of academic disciplines teach this course with the common goal of furthering students’ critical thinking, writing, and research skills. Readings and discussion topics will vary across seminar sections.

If you have earned transfer credit for a college-level writing course, you may instead fulfill this requirement in a two-credit INTG 200 Learning Explorations course.

What is the Cultural and Social Difference-Identity course?

Cultural and Social Difference-Identity (CSDI) courses will be offered in a wide range of academic departments. These courses will explore the dynamic effects of gender, race, and ethnicity in the development of individual identity. Students will complete this requirement in either fall or spring of the first year.

Why am I in a language course?

Second-language proficiency through the intermediate level is required in the Integrations Curriculum. If beginning a new language, three semesters of study (Beginning I, Beginning II and Intermediate I) is needed to complete the requirement.

At the time of registration, advisors reviewed the language interest and background information you provided in the online Advising and Registration form as well as online language placement exam scores (French, German and Spanish) to determine your best starting point toward completing the Global Language Requirement.

Most students begin language study in the first year of college.

I am bilingual. What are my options for meeting the language requirement?

Bilingual students may meet the language requirement through language course enrollment (including English Reading/Composition for Bilingual Students) and/or by proficiency assessment.
If you noted on your Advising and Registration Form that you are bilingual, you will receive additional information via email.

If you did not indicate bilingual fluency on your Advising and Registration Form, contact Theresa Anderson, Academic Advisor, at tanderson@csbsju.edu.

International students for whom English is a true second language may be enrolled in English as a Second Language courses according to individual levels of proficiency.

**What languages can I study at CSB/SJU?**

Language coursework is available in:

- Chinese
- French
- German
- Greek
- Hispanic Studies
- Japanese
- Latin

**Do I need a math class in my first semester?**

Students may be enrolled in a math course if

- Their major interests require a specific math course to be completed in the first or second semester (See Sample Schedules by Major), or
- A 2-credit math preparation course is necessary to meet a pre-requisite for a future math or quantitative course. Math preparation options are MATH 111 Pre-Statistics and Modeling and MATH 115 Pre-Calculus.

**Why am I enrolled in CHEM 125 if I have post-secondary credit for General Chemistry at another college?**

CHEM 125 Introduction to Chemical Structures and Properties is included in your schedule if your major, minor, or pre-professional interests require it in your first semester. This course is not the same as General Chemistry and is not replaced by general chemistry AP, IB, or post-secondary credits.

**I am in Chamber Choir. Can I be in a science lab during choir?**

In the block class schedule, Chamber Choir will not conflict with scheduled lab times.

**Can I take honors courses?**

Students who have applied for, and been accepted to, the Honors Program will be enrolled together in INTG 105 College Success class sections, taught by faculty in the Honors Program. Additionally, students whose interests and past academic achievement indicate eligibility for honors may also be enrolled.

In the spring term, Honors students must enroll in an Honors course for the Cultural and Social Difference–Identity requirement.
Interested students who have not yet applied for the Honors Program are encouraged to do so promptly. Applications will be accepted through the first semester, and on a space-available basis in the spring term.

**Learning about majors, courses and requirements**

**How can I learn more about possible majors at CSB/SJU?**

Review the list of [available majors and minors](#).

Use the link above or the [A-Z index](#) to link to departmental web pages. The landing page typically includes an overview of the program. Options at left will include links to course requirements or to curriculum for detailed information about required course work.

**How do I know what my major/minor classes will be about?**

The [Academic Catalog](#) includes descriptions for all classes in a PDF link on each department’s page. Banner Web also has a “Course Catalog” option for reviewing course descriptions.

**What is a pre-professional program?**

These programs are designed to help students prepare for and meet the pre-requisites for specific graduate programs. For some, the pre-professional course work will overlap with their chosen majors though it is typically not required that this be the case. Use the [A-Z Index](#) on the CSB/SJU website to access information about pre-professional programs.

Note that all students must complete a major course of study. Pre-professional programs are done in addition to a major.

**Academic and Faculty Advisors**

**Who is my advisor?**

Advisors in the Academic Advising Office are available to assist and advise students during the summer and throughout the academic year. Contact advising about exploring academic interests, revising schedules to reflect changing interests, and general academic information.

As the start of the semester nears, first-year students will be assigned faculty advisors who will work with you throughout your first year of college. Faculty advisors will send letters of introduction and information about important faculty advising meetings each semester. Be sure to respond promptly to these messages; if no additional action is needed you may simply thank your advisor for the information.