



State University of New York

## Planning Guide for Transfer Students Enrolling in Harpur College of Arts & Sciences

### “Choosing Your Major”

Academic Advising <http://harpur-advising.binghamton.edu/>

Harpur College offers both undergraduate and graduate degree programs in the arts, humanities, sciences, mathematics, and social sciences. Harpur College provides the best in liberal arts education, offering a strong and diverse academic program. To earn a degree, all students must:

- ***Complete the requirements for a major designed by a specific department or program.***
- Earn a grade point average of least 2.00 ("C") on courses taken at Binghamton University. Transferred credits are not included in this calculation.
- Complete the University's General Education requirements.
- Complete the Harpur Upper-Level Course Requirement (44 upper-level credits).
- Complete the Harpur Writing Requirement of at least four designated courses.
- Complete 126 credit hours or more.

#### **Choosing a Major**

All graduates must choose an academic major and complete its requirements satisfactorily. You should try to declare your major program by your fifth semester...or the traditional start of the Junior year. Doing so increases the likelihood that you will complete your degree in a timely manner. Of course you can change majors, but you'll want your credits to work efficiently for you. ***The sooner you choose your major, the sooner you'll complete your degree.***

Decision-making opportunities exist in all corners of the University, and it's important to recognize them in all forms. Ask yourself how different majors would complement your interests, proficiencies, goals, and career aspirations. Explore and assess your strengths and proficiencies. We recommend consulting with faculty who are teaching courses that interest you. A trusted faculty member can open doors to the major, and provide opportunities to further explore a subject or discipline. Seek advice from Academic Advising, academic departments, and individual faculty members. Take advantage of the Career Development Center and various workshops, clubs, and programs on campus. We will help guide you toward a planned and organized program, not a random selection of courses. The Harpur College curriculum provides opportunities for decision making and self-discovery... but it requires ***you*** to be an active participant, and an active learner.

Choosing a major is obviously an important step in your academic career. But in today's increasingly global marketplace, employers are not simply looking for specialization; they want worldly individuals who are adaptable, know how to learn new things, and have the ability to innovate. The liberal arts foundation provides you with a broader world view, the ability to consider a multitude of viewpoints and perspectives, and the ability to generate original, creative works. Because of the range of options a liberal arts degree opens up to you, your interests and goals -- combined with the skills offered by a major -- will often illuminate a career pathway as you proceed.

### **Summary**

Think about choosing your major soon. Explore our academic programs online at <http://harpur-advising.binghamton.edu> (click on the "Harpur Majors" link at lower left). It features an easy-to-use display which shows our undergraduate degree programs, while providing links to our catalog, our requirements and departmental advising and degree planning resources.

When you are close to making your decision, use an advisor or trusted faculty member as a sounding board. We'll ask relevant questions, point out options, and give you some information about your potential degree plan. Assess and consider the information you gather. Consult, consult, consult! Review degree requirements alongside your current and past coursework using the online degree audit program (DARS). Your degree audit report shows all previous college coursework accepted by Binghamton University and all remaining requirements. Then, go to the department or program office and declare your major. Plan and schedule your courses. Work hard, and finish your degree!

### **Transferring Courses**

Many General Education, writing, and other requirements can be fulfilled at the community college. For students coming from SUNY schools, all General Education credits are accepted. Some major requirements or prerequisites can also be completed before enrolling at Binghamton. Academic departments determine which courses are acceptable for use in a major.

Transfer credit resources and listings of many pre-approved course equivalencies are online at <http://harpur-advising.binghamton.edu/transfer/index.html>.

### **Harpur Academic Advising**

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