

Four Year Plan Assignment

To graduate with a BA (Bachelor of Arts) or a BS (Bachelor of Science) degree, you are required to complete the University's Gen Ed (General Education) and an academic major, while earning a minimum total of 124 credit hours. Although you cannot know at this point exactly which courses will be available during a given semester, the four year plan exercise will give you a good idea of what it will take to reach your academic goals during your time at Muskingum.

STEP 1: Select your intended major

From the list below, select a major that you either plan to complete, or are considering as a possibility. Many students elect to complete one or more minors and one or more additional academic majors. If you are considering completing a double major or one or more minors, these additional majors or minors should be included in your four year plan. The following majors are offered at Muskingum University and are described in detail in the *Muskingum University Catalog*:

Accounting	Health Administration
Accounting (Public)	Health and Fitness
American Studies	History
Art	Humanities
Athletic Training	International Affairs
Biology	International Business
Business Management	Journalism
Chemistry	Marketing
Child and Family Studies	Mathematics
Christian Education	Media Production
Communication	Molecular Biology
Computer Science	Music
Conservation Science	Music Education
Criminal Justice	Neuroscience
Digital Media Design	Nursing
Earth Science	Organizational Communication
Economics	Petroleum Geology
Education	Philosophy
Early Childhood Education	Physics
Middle Childhood Education	Political Science
Health Education	Psychology
Physical Education	Public Affairs
Special Education	Public Health Studies
Engineering Science	Public Relations
English	Religion
Environmental Science	Sociology
French	Spanish
Geology	Theatre
German	

Only minors are available in the following: Film Studies, Gender Studies, Musical Theatre, Pre-Law, Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL).

Now that you have decided which major(s) and possibly minor(s) you will include in your four year plan, read steps two and three *before* beginning to fill out your grid.

STEP 2: Decide your Gen Ed classes

You are encouraged to finish *most* of the courses that satisfy the Gen Ed core in your first two to three years. This will allow you to concentrate on upper-level courses in your major area(s) of interest during your junior and senior years. As you choose the courses you will take to satisfy Gen Ed requirements (refer to your catalog) you may want to also look at the requirements of your major to see if you can satisfy *both* a Gen Ed and a major requirement with the same course. This is especially important if you are trying to complete multiple majors and minors.

STEP 3: Take into consideration other requirements

- You must take two writing unit courses to graduate after having completed English Composition 121. One of them must be at the 300- or 400-level. These are not indicated in the university catalog, but will be indicated on MuskieLink by a # symbol.
- You must earn a minimum of 40 hours at or above the 300 level in order to graduate.
- Muskingum University offers domestic, off-campus, and study abroad programs with partner universities in Argentina, Canada, France, Germany, Japan, Korea, and Spain. In addition, a number of short term opportunities are available. Students may study abroad for a summer session, a semester, or a full academic year while paying regular Muskingum tuition and maintaining their financial aid status. Before you go abroad, your advisor and the Study Abroad Coordinator will help you determine what Muskingum classes your credit hours will count as when they are transferred.
- Keep in mind the course numbering system as you select your courses. First year students may take 100- and 200-level courses. Some courses have *prerequisites*, which are other courses that must be completed before you can take them.
- You may be able to obtain further information on course offerings in departmental manuals, checklists, and web pages. You are strongly encouraged to ask a professor in your planned major field to direct you to the appropriate source of information and to answer any questions you may have.
- You have achieved sophomore status when you have completed 28 semester hours; Junior standing, 60 hours; and senior status, 92 hours. To complete 124 semester hours in eight semesters, you must average of 15-16 hours per semester, or fewer if you take May Term courses.

STEP 4: Fill in the grid

You are ready to fill in the grid. Your First Year Seminar instructor will evaluate it, return it to you with comments to be revised if necessary, collect it again, and save it in your advising folder. You should make a photocopy to keep in your own advising folder.

You will most likely encounter obstacles such as closed classes and courses not offered when you had planned to take them, so this four year plan will have to change and evolve over time – that's okay. You may change your major and have to rethink your entire plan. Nonetheless, this exercise will help you work out realistic goals in collaboration with your advisor. It will also give you the necessary skills to adapt your plan as your academic and career interests change.