

Academics at Bethel



BETHEL
UNIVERSITY

College isn't just about getting good grades or checking off class requirements—it's about launching a life you love. At Bethel, we don't just help you *earn* a degree; we help you use it. From Welcome Week on, you'll find campus resources, mentors, and experiences that shape your future career, not just your transcript. Whether you're still exploring possibilities or already have a dream job in mind, your time at Bethel is designed to help you discover your callings, grow your skills, and get connected to real-world opportunities. Here's how to make the most of every step—*academically and professionally*.

AS YOU BEGIN

- Choose a major! Check out the list at bethel.edu/majors-minors and give some serious thought to what you might want to study. Pro tip: You can select “exploratory major” if you're not quite ready. That's completely normal.
- You'll be assigned a faculty advisor in your area of study—or an exploratory advisor who can help you think through options, take self-assessments, and start to focus. You'll work with them often, so get to know them!
- During Welcome Week, you'll have opportunities to connect with faculty in your area of study and ensure your first few classes fit your interests. Take advantage of these Academic Connection and Advising Central events.
- Take care of yourself! Use the Wellness Center, stop by Health Services when you need to, get enough sleep, and choose healthy foods. When you feel well, you'll do well!
- Your mental health matters. It's a big change to start college, especially if you're living away from home for the first time. You will receive **free** confidential Counseling Services on-site if you need someone to talk to.
- Mark Advising Day on your calendar (mid-semester). The day is set aside (no class!) for you to connect with your advisor and work on your academic plan using the Degree Works interactive software. Revisit your plan often.
- Develop good study habits. Go to class. Find a favorite study spot and time, and put learning first.
- Struggling with coursework? Don't hesitate to seek assistance. The Academic Enrichment and Support Center (AESC) offers free tutoring and study sessions.

YEAR TWO

- Are you considering changing your major or adding a minor or endorsement? Check in with your advisor regularly, or use the resources at bethel.edu/advising-center to consider your options and adjust accordingly.
- Visit The Studio for Vocation and Calling to get connected to a mentor, polish your resume, or check out networking opportunities. Career-related experiences are woven into your coursework, but this resource center and its staff are available to you anytime!
- Keep an eye on bethel.edu/events for free presentations from alumni, creative and performing arts events, guest Chapel speakers, job fairs, and more. You never know what will inspire you!
- Do you have a campus job? Try to find one that lines up with your academic interests so you get paid to gain real-world experience. It's a win-win!
- Explore opportunities to study abroad during January Session or a full semester. Cultural awareness is a valuable skill you can bring with you anywhere, and many programs will complement your major.

LEADING UP TO COMMENCEMENT

- Take a few minutes to look back on the classes you've taken so far. Which ones have been the most interesting? Are there related research or career opportunities to pursue?
- Apply to graduate, and think seriously about potential career paths. Have you done enough internships or hands-on projects to set you apart?
- What are you doing this summer? Find a job or internship related to your field. Many Bethel students even do paid research alongside their professors! Ask around.
- Most majors have a capstone project or internship designed to help you bring all of your learning together as you finish. Try to find a topic that truly interests you.
- If graduate school is next, submit your applications. Deadlines come up fast, especially when you're juggling a full course load.