

Academics at Bethel



BETHEL
UNIVERSITY

Of course college is academic. That goes without saying! But one of the great things about Bethel is that there are so many offices and resources available to help you select the right courses, excel in your studies, and prepare for success after graduation. Here are a few things to think about each year of college.

FRESHMAN YEAR

- During Welcome Week, Academic Connection events and Advising Central can help you select classes to fit your interests.
- 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!
- Make sure you're thinking about your mental health, too. It's a big change to start college, especially if you're living away from home for the first time. Free confidential counseling services are available on-site if you need someone to talk to.
- Declare a major! It's normal to be unsure when you start college, but give some serious thought to what you might want to study. Bethel supports "exploratory majors" who are not ready to make a decision about their academic program. View your options at bethel.edu/academics.
- Put Advising Day on your calendar. You'll connect with your advisor and work on your academic plan using the Degree Works interactive software. Revisit your plan often.
- Develop good study skills. Find a favorite study spot and time, and put your learning first.
- There's free tutoring and study sessions in the Academic Enrichment and Support Center (AESC) office. College can be tough. It's completely normal to ask for help.

SOPHOMORE YEAR

- Are you considering changing your major or adding a minor? Check in with your advisor regularly, or use the Advising Center resources at bethel.edu/advising-center to consider your options and adjust accordingly.
- 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 J-term or a full semester. Cultural awareness is a valuable skill you can bring with you anywhere, and many programs will complement your major.

JUNIOR YEAR

- 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?
- 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.

SENIOR YEAR

- 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.
- Apply to graduate, and think seriously about potential career paths. Have you done enough internships or hands-on projects to set you apart?
- If graduate school is next, submit your applications. Deadlines come up fast, especially when you're juggling a full course load.