

“DIY” (DO IT YOURSELF) ADVISING

When a counselor or advisor is not available, you can follow these tips and “advise yourself.” At some point, however, you are encouraged to see a counselor to review the courses you selected in relationship to your academic goals. But **DON’T WAIT** to see a counselor if none will be available for a while – enroll now and then see a counselor later.

1. Which classes should I start with?

The courses with the highest priority you should consider enrolling in your first semester are: one of the required Education courses; and the appropriate **English, reading** and **math** classes. These subject areas will provide you with a solid foundation for all of your other classes. You do not HAVE to take these courses your first semester, but you are strongly encouraged to do so. Begin with these and then build your schedule from there.

2. Since English and math are recommended classes to start with, which of these classes should I enroll in?

In terms of English, the answer to this question depends on the scores and recommendations from your assessment. For math classes, the answer to this question depends on the last math course you passed with a “C” or better in high school.

ENGLISH – Writing/Reading

Placement Level: **Course You Should Enroll In:**

Level 4 – Writing	English P083 or 83R
Level 4 – Reading	English P081
Level 3 – Writing	English P071
Level 3 – Reading	English P072
Level 2 – Writing	English P050
Level 1 – Writing	English P101A

MATHEMATICS

The math class you select will depend on the last math classes you completed at high school or at another college. If it has been a while since you have taken a math class, you may want to start with a lower level class as a refresher. Whatever class you select, you must have completed the math course that is one level lower with a “C” grade or higher.

Math Courses and the Prerequisite for the Course:

Course	College Prerequisite	High School Prerequisite
Math P061 - Pre-algebra	None	None
Math P055 – Elem. Algebra	None	None
Math P051 – Inter. Algebra	Elem Algebra (Math P055)	“C” in 2 nd term of Geometry
Math P122 - Stats	Inter. Algebra (Math P051)	“C” in 2 nd term of Inter. Alg.
Math P101 - Trig	Inter. Algebra (Math P051)	“C” in 2 nd term of Inter. Alg.
Math P102 - Precalculus	Trig. (Math P101)	“C” in 2 nd term of Trig.

Examples:

- If the last math class you took in high school was Elementary Algebra and you received a “C” grade or higher, then you would take Math P051 – Intermediate Algebra.
- If the last math class you took in high school was Intermediate Algebra and you received a “C” grade or

higher, then you would take either Math P122 or Math P101. If you are going into a non-science or non-math major, then Math P122 would be recommended.

- If it has been a long time since you took math, or if math has always been a very difficult subject for you, then you should take either Math P061 or Math P055 – probably Math P061 (if you have never taken algebra or struggle with algebra).

3. Which classes am I required to take?

Regardless of what your major may be, in order to complete your Associate degree, you need to complete:

- General Education – there are three different general education checklists to choose from, and the one you choose will depend on your academic goals (explained below)*
- Major requirements – listed in the college catalog are a variety of majors you can choose from. Once you decide on a major, just take the classes listed.
- Porterville College additional graduation requirements that include one of the Education courses listed; 3 credits of Health/PE; and a multicultural studies course.

***General Education:**

Which of the three general education checklists you choose to follow will depend on your academic goal and where (or if) you are planning to transfer.

<i>If you are....</i>	<i>Then you should follow...</i>
NOT planning on transferring to a university after Porterville College.	The Porterville College General Education checklist.
Planning to transfer to a CSU ONLY, e.g. Fresno State, Bakersfield State, etc.	Either the CSU GE Breadth or IGETC. Most students who transfer to a CSU choose the CSU GE Breadth checklist.
Planning to transfer to a UC, e.g. UC Berkeley, UC Davis, UCLA, etc.	You MUST choose IGETC.
Planning to transfer but not sure if you will transfer to a UC or CSU.	You should choose IGETC.

Major Requirements

The catalog has over 15 different majors you can choose from. Once you have decided on a major, all you have to do is follow the courses listed in the catalog for your major.

IN A NUTSHELL:

- Complete the Education course your first year – preferably your first term.
- Follow the English and math sequence recommended from either your English placement level from the assessment or the last Math class completed at high school with a “C” or better.
- Depending on your academic goals, choose and follow the appropriate General Education checklist.
- Depending on your major, choose and follow the major requirements in the catalog.

THAT’S IT – NOW GO REGISTER!