

Topics to be covered at our meeting today:

- Who am I, and what is my role?
- Who are you?
- Academic honesty
- The registration process
- The course selection process
- Meeting times between now and registration



Your Freshman Advisor, Frank Wolfs, having fun at 12,000'.



Welcome to Rochester!

Welcome to the University of Rochester! My name is Frank Wolfs, and I am a professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy and I will serve as your pre-major faculty advisor until you have declared your major. Before talking about the details of what we will accomplish this week, let me briefly tell you a little bit about myself.

- I was born and raised in The Netherlands.
- I received my BS and MS in Physics from the University of Groningen (The Netherlands).
- I received my Ph.D. in experimental nuclear physics from the University of Chicago.
- I joined the University of Rochester in 1990.
- My hobbies are flying airplanes, computers, and teaching physics.

Where can you find me and how can you contact me?

- My office is in B&L, room 203A. I also spend a lot of time in my laboratory, teaching, in meetings, etc. so quite often you will not find me in my office, unless I know that you are looking for me.
- My office phone number is 585-275-4937. You can also reach me at 585-643-5496.
- My email address is wolfs@pas.rochester.edu.
- The best way to contact me is via email. We can then set up a time to meet to discuss any issues in person.

Much useful information about course selection, registration, etc. can be found on my pre-major advising page located at:

<http://teacher.pas.rochester.edu/advising/premajoradvising/>

The registration process:

As part of the registration process you will receive your Course Planning, Placement & Recommendation Form (CPPR). This form contains information about placement recommendations for certain departments (based on for example you SAT scores), decisions on AP credit, and possibly placement in writing courses. Why do you get this form and what do you need to do with it?

- Use the CPPR form to select the appropriate courses for the fall. Note: if you register for a course in the Department that made a specific recommendation, make sure you register for the course listed on the form. If you want to register for a different course, you **must** get approval from a representative of that Department by going to the Academic Open House on Thursday 8/28 between 9 am and 1 pm. **Note: the fact that a Department makes a recommendation does not mean you have to take a course in that Department!**
- You must follow the recommendation listed on the form about when to satisfy the primary writing requirement (WRT 105). **If you have not registered already for a WRT 105 course, you should make the assumption that you will need to satisfy this requirement in Spring 2015.**
- The CPPR form also list the courses you are interested in taking in the fall. **Note: in most cases, the list of courses will be a starting point in defining your interests and your fall schedule, but most likely will be modified during the next few days.**

The following steps will be taken to complete your registration for the fall semester:

- Wednesday: Meeting to review registration and course selection (this meeting).
- Wednesday: Based on the discussion at the meeting today, develop a course schedule for the fall (we will discuss course selection in a moment). Make sure you have a number of alternate courses in case one of your preferred courses is closed when you try to register. **Please email me your tentative course selection so that I can review them before our meeting.**
- Wednesday afternoon/evening: Meet with me and review your course selection. You should have received an email inviting you to sign up for an advising meeting.
- Thursday: Attend the academic open house if you need to get approval of the various Departments and/or need information about particular programs.
- Thursday evening and Friday: if required we can continue discussing course selection via email.
- Friday afternoon: register for your fall courses.

The course planning process:

Before discussing the details of the course planning procedure, we need to discuss the flexibility you will have putting together your schedule, and the opportunities you have to change your mind about the area in which you intend to major. Here are the facts:

- To graduate you need 128 credit hours
- You need an area of concentration, which can require up to 48 credit hours of course work. Some of the required courses may have prerequisites you have to fulfill (for example, Physics and Mathematics courses) which may add another 8 courses or 32 credit hours to your area of concentration.
- You need to complete two clusters (three courses each) in the divisions other than the division of your concentration. This requires 24 credit hours.
- The primary writing requirement is satisfied by taking WRT 105 (4 credit hours).

The total number of required course load listed above is $80 + 24 + 4 = 108$. This leaves 20 credit hours (1 full semester + 1 4 credit hour course) for you to select based on your interest. My conclusion: **you have great flexibility in pursuing your interest and making major changes in your area of concentration.**

When we consider your course schedule for the fall, I recommend you consider the following points:

- Define your interests: do you have a strong interest in one particular area? Look in the Freshman Handbook and see if there are specific recommendations made by that Department for courses to take in your freshman year.
- More than 50% of all freshmen will change their mind about their area of concentration.

- If you are unsure about your area of interest, try to select courses that will help you define your area of interest.
- Do **not** try to get all of the requirements (such as cluster courses) out of the way. This will limit your options later if you decide to change your mind about your area of concentration.
- Make sure that you include WRT 105 in your course planning for your freshman year.
- You may want to consider selecting 6 courses of interest, register for 4 but go to all classes during the first few weeks. You can drop and add courses during the first few weeks of the semester.

Where can you find me between now and registration?

- Wednesday: you found me!
 - I will be available for individual meetings in my office in B&L 203A between 12.00 pm and 1.30 pm and between 5 pm and 8 pm to review course schedules. Please register for a time slot.
 - I will be at the Biology, Chemistry, and Physics Question and Answer Session between 3.30 pm and 4.30 pm in Hubbel Auditorium.

- Thursday:
 - I will be available for additional appointments between 9 am and 12 pm.

- Friday:
 - I will not be on campus (I will be travelling to Albany for a conference that starts at noon on Friday). I will be in email contact for most of the day (except the morning).

At other times I will be available via email.