

SOPHOMORE GUIDE

Introduction

You are majoring with a degree in the Fulbright College and this guide will help you navigate the upcoming milestones of sophomore year. During this year, you will continue to explore your major classes and degree requirements, consider possible minors, dive into campus curriculars, and may pursue an internship or study abroad opportunity. We want this guide to be an introduction to expectations and resources to fulfill your sophomore goals.

Control+Click the blue words to guide you to all your web resources.

Checklist

- Develop a well-balanced schedule
- Find co-curricular activities
- Explore career opportunities

Develop a Well-Balanced Schedule

major courses + remaining core courses + electives

Major Course	Courses that are required specifically for your major, or required pre-requisite for your major courses.
Core Course	Courses that are required to fill the University Core. Some of these may overlap with your major.
Elective	Courses you choose to take, but are not part of the core or your major. Explore other departments, minors, or to try something new!

Things to remember:

- 12 credit hours is full-time
- Check with scholarships for credit hour requirements
- Check with an advisor to verify the courses you have selected will create a manageable semester and successfully fulfill your degree plan.

Step 1: Always consult the Catalog of Studies.

The “[Catalog](#)” is your contract with the U of A and outlines information about your major and minors:

- Overview of the field and your major
- Outlines specific graduation requirements
- Lists all courses and their descriptions (including pre-requisites!)
- Provides an 8-semester graduation plan so that you can see one way the department sequence their major classes.

Step 2: Use your Advising Worksheet and Degree Audit as your guide.

- The [advising worksheet](#) is found on the Fulbright Advising website, so you can cross off what you have accomplished, look at options for specific requirements, and plan for future semesters.
- **The Degree Audit** is found in your personal UAConnect account. It breaks down your programs of study (majors and minors) into individual paths so that you can see what you have completed, courses you still need to take, as well as your GPA and total hours completed.



Step 2: Continued

- The degree audit is also based on the Catalog of Studies, and is what we use to verify your graduation and award your diploma. You should check your degree audit each semester, and ask your advisor if you have questions about it.



**If you are pursuing a pre-health path: Be sure to check in with your pre-health advisor about the admissions requirements to the school of your choice. Bring that information with you to your advising appointment.

Step 3: Look for Important Milestones in your Major (and Minor)

- Which courses are introductory courses (1000 and 2000 level)?
- Which courses does the Catalog include in the first 2 years of the 8-semester plan?
- Which courses are you excited to take?
- Do they have any prerequisites (classes that you have to take first)?
- Do they have any co-requisites (classes that you have to take at the same time)?
- Check out [Career Counseling](#)

Step 4: Looking for General Elective and Alternative Courses

- Great news! You have room in your degree to make choices about what you want to take using General Elective credit. Understanding your options for elective credit can help make this process enjoyable—and we hope that it IS enjoyable for you!
- Every course at the UA is designed to support one of our academic departments. Therefore, there is no list of “electives” in UAConnect or the Catalog. You have to first know what is required for your major/minor before you can really know if a class will count as elective credit.
- For example, let’s say you came into the UA as a Psychology major, but were interested in COMM 1313 Public Speaking so you took it. Since it’s not a requirement for our Psychology students, the class is an elective for you at the time. But it turns out you loved it and declared the Communication major. Now, the class is considered a major requirement course.

Helpful Tips!

Finding Electives:

- Think about what you've enjoyed so far. Are there other classes like that?
- Think about what you're curious about—Plants? Recreation? Financial literacy? Literature?
- What kinds of skills would you like to acquire while in school? Computing? Writing? Accounting?
- Consider your workload. Do you have a lot of reading intensive courses and want something more hands-on?

Utilizing UASuccess:

- Use the “Select Subject” box in Class Search to look at all of our academic departments. If you click on “ENGL” and hit “search” you will see EVERY English class that is still open at the UA.
- Use the “Course Number” box to limit your search to introductory courses for new areas. If you set to “less than or equal to” and then type in 2999, you will see EVERY 1000 and 2000 level course in that department that is still open.
- When you get the class list, click on the hyperlink for the class to read its description and its pre-requisites.



Pro Tip!! Enroll in the classes you KNOW that you need first, and then begin working on elective exploration. You'll feel good about having your major classes taken care of and then complete your schedule with electives!

Course Information

3000 and 4000 Level Course

- You will probably stumble into upper-level courses of interest- which is great! Check to make sure you meet the pre-requisites for the class. Think about the work load for these more advanced courses. You can enroll in what you like, but our recommendation is 1-2 of these courses at most as you learn what to expect from the instructor, the reading load, and the independent work of the class.

Transfer courses from Other Schools

- **Does the class transfer as I expect it to?** Use the Transfer Guide (courseequivalency.uark.edu) to see if we already have a rule established for that class. If you need a specific course credit, it is your responsibility to make sure the class you take at home transfers in as the same class you need at the UA.
- **Is the course a pre-requisite for a class I need in the Fall?** If it is a pre-requisite for a Fall course, you will not be able to enroll into the Fall course here until that credit transfers. UAConnect scans your UA credit to see if you can enroll in the next class, when you take it elsewhere we don't see that credit. Some departments may give you a temporary override into the Fall course, but most will require that you already have the credit.
- **Which classes are best to transfer in?** Depends on your major, but essentially classes that are not pre-requisites for your Fall courses are best. Common options are: world languages, math, core requirement courses, sometimes core sciences for non-science major students.

Step 5: Look into Co-Curricular Opportunities

Study Abroad

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Questions to Consider:• Does your degree program require study abroad?• Do you know what region you would like to explore? | <p>Steps to Get Started:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Attend a HogsAbroad 101 drop-in2. Meet with your Academic Advisor3. Meet with a Study Abroad Advisor <p>https://studyabroad.uark.edu/programs/index.php</p> |
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Undergraduate Research

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Questions to Consider:• Does your major require or highly recommend research? | <p>Steps to Get Started:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Find a Research Mentor at the U of A2. Explore research opportunities on the3. Undergraduate Research Center <p>https://ugresearch.uark.edu/</p> |
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Internship Opportunities

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Questions to Consider:• Does your degree program require an internship? | <p>Steps to Get Started:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Go to the CDC or College advisor to find out more2. Explore Co-Op opportunities <p>https://career.uark.edu/cdc/students/findjobs/</p> |
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Resources to Help

Scholarships + Financial Aid

It's your responsibility to know your scholarship requirements. Check in with your scholarship provider if you have ANY questions about your funds and registration. For UA scholarships, you can find all contact information at scholarships.uark.edu.

Did you know that you have a Financial Aid Advisor assigned based on your last name? You can find them [here](#). No matter what, don't forget to fill out your FAFSA for next year!

Final Note on Registration

Remember, you have control over your registration. Be sure to check your UAConnect account for your enrollment date (it will be sometime in April), find time to meet with your advisor if you need, and verify your scholarship requirements. The Registrar's Office has all deadlines posted and remember, you can change your schedule until the term begins—but, it's easier to adjust your schedule after you have enrolled than to try to get into closed courses because you waited.

If you have a quick question be sure to stop by our Advising Lab in the 3rd Floor Lobby of Champions Hall, M-F 8a-4:30p. The advising lab mentors can also help you schedule an advising appointment.

You're going to do great!