



Dear Members of the Class of 2012:

I am looking forward to meeting you in person and to having the opportunity to speak with you during Orientation **Tuesday, August 26 - Sunday, August 31, 2008**. The information in this mailing is dedicated mostly to helping you think about and plan your first few courses here at Swarthmore (but there are some other tidbits of information as well). The number and breadth of options you have, requirements to keep in mind, and interests to balance can be overwhelming, but we hope the information presented here will be helpful as you plan your first semester. One thing that isn't here is an orientation schedule. All such details will appear online at <http://www.swarthmore.edu/orientation.xml>.

The information here is organized into two categories. Most concisely, the first doesn't require action, while the second does. In the former, we do, however, make some suggestions you may want to follow up on. The latter includes two things we ask you to complete later, with details being emailed to you (via your Swarthmore email account) as soon as they are available.

Information with no action required:

Requirements, Course Load, Grades, & Registration: A summary of the graduation requirements we think are most relevant to consider now; how many courses you should take; how grades are given during your first semester; and a brief introduction to registration.

Exploring, Advising, & Pre-Med Note: More on how to best prepare for choosing courses, including how to find out about courses and seminars for first-year students, how we will be helping you navigate all the options, and when registration takes place.

Information requiring action:

Travel Arrangements: Directions and a campus map. For those needing help getting to campus from the airport or train station...**action:** *complete the travel form online.*

Blackboard, Connect-ED, & CIRP Freshman Survey: An introduction to Swarthmore web-based course management system, to our emergency alert system, and the First-year survey. **Action:** *set up your Blackboard and Connect-ED accounts online, and await survey instructions via email.*

AlcoholEDU: The online alcohol education program that Dean Larimore spoke of in his welcome letter. **Action:** *read the information here, and await further instructions via email.*

Academic Support and Special Needs: A brief catalog of some of the ways the College provides academic support to students, including those who request accommodations for learning disabilities. **Action:** *send documentation if applicable.*

Placement and Credit: A few words explaining *advanced placement* and *credit*, and a summary of how each department makes these determinations, including details special to and the exam for Math. **Action:** *complete the placement exam form online and send in the Math Placement Exam (if appropriate).*

There is a lot to take in here, but please take your time, read through it all very carefully, and try to stay open to receiving the advice and guidance of those you will meet once you arrive. We hope you continue to have a great summer and we will see you in the Fall.

Sincerely,
Garikai Campbell
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
Associate Professor of Mathematics



As you plan your program, you must take into account, in addition to your other goals, the need to satisfy the College's graduation requirements. These requirements are designed to ensure a broad liberal arts educational experience. The full list of graduation requirements can be found in the college catalog. For purposes of planning your first semester, the requirements you should be thinking particularly about are the:

1. *Distribution Requirement*
2. *Writing Requirement*
3. *Natural Science and Engineering Practicum Requirement*
4. *Physical Education and Swimming Requirement*
5. *Foreign Language Requirement*

most of which you are expected to finish or nearly finish by the end of the second year.

1. The Distribution Requirement

The academic departments of the College are each assigned to one of three divisions. For purposes of the distribution requirements, the three divisions of the College are constituted as follows:

Humanities: Art; Classics (literature); English Literature; Modern Languages and Literatures; Music and Dance; Philosophy; Religion; Theater

Natural Sciences and Engineering: Biology; Chemistry and Biochemistry; Computer Science; Engineering; Mathematics and Statistics; Physics and Astronomy

Social Sciences: Classics (ancient history); Economics; Educational Studies; History; Linguistics; Political Science; Psychology; Sociology and Anthropology

To meet the distribution requirement, a student must:

1. Complete at least 3 credits in each of the three divisions of the College.
2. Complete 2 courses in each division at Swarthmore. The third credit in a division can be AP credit or credit awarded for work done elsewhere.
3. At least 2 courses in each division must be in different departmental subjects. (AP and courses elsewhere can count for this.)

Students should complete at least two courses in three divisions within the first two years.

2. The Writing Requirement

Certain courses at Swarthmore are designed to pay particular attention to helping students improve their writing. These courses are called "Writing" or "W" courses, and are designated as such in both the catalog and the course schedule. To meet the Writing requirement, a student in the Class of 2012 must:

1. Take at least three Writing ("W") courses or seminars.
2. Take at least one Writing ("W") course or seminar in at least two divisions.

Students should complete at least two Writing courses in the first two years.



3. *The Natural Science and Engineering Practicum Requirement*

All students must take at least one course in the division of Natural Sciences and Engineering that has a laboratory component, designated as a “practicum” or “NSEP.” NSEPs are designated in the college catalog and the course schedule.

4. *The Physical Education and Swimming Requirement*

Students are required to complete four quarters (two semesters) of physical activity that may include Physical Education classes, Physical Education dance classes, and/or participation on approved intercollegiate athletic teams. All PE classes are pass/not pass based on attendance and participation. Successful completion of a varsity athletic season is equivalent to two PE units, and a semester of participation in most club sports is equivalent to one PE unit.

Students must also pass a swim test or take the Aquatics class. The swim test will be administered sometime during Orientation. It calls for a demonstration of basic strokes and the ability to stay afloat for a total of 15 minutes. Students who know that they cannot swim may skip the test and register for a beginning swimming course (Aquatics I) during registration. (Note: The placement exam form that we ask you to complete online has more information and a question about the swim test. Please remember to complete this form.)

We expect all students to complete both the swimming and PE requirement no later than the end of the sophomore year. For this reason, we encourage you to think about PE and swimming as you plan your first semester and year at Swarthmore.

5. *The Foreign Language Requirement*

All students must meet the foreign language requirement by satisfying at least one of the following:

- a. pass three years or the equivalent of a single foreign language while in grades 9 through 12 (*work done prior to grade 9 cannot be counted*);
- b. achieve a score of 600 or better on a standard achievement test of a foreign language;
- c. pass either the final term of a college-level, year-long introductory foreign language course or a semester-long intermediate foreign language course; or
- d. learn English as a foreign language while remaining demonstrably proficient in another.

When you arrive on campus, your Orientation packet will include a notice that specifies whether or not we believe you have already completed this requirement. If you believe our determination to be incorrect, please see the Registrar.

To those of you who have some foreign language study in a foreign language that we teach, but whose work does not satisfy our requirement: **take a language placement test** to see if you place out of the requirement or where to resume your study. Work done prior to grade 9—even advanced work—will not itself count. Take the test. **The placement exams for French, German, and Spanish will be available online for two weeks in August.** See the *Placement and Credit* page for more.



5. *The Foreign Language Requirement (cont'd)*

You should consult your academic advisor concerning the study of a foreign language, recognizing that some departments in which students may later choose to major have foreign language requirements or recommendations, and that participation in Swarthmore-sponsored study abroad programs may have minimum linguistic competence requirements.

Course Load

The total number of academic credits required for graduation is 32. Courses are typically offered for one credit, though some count for 1.5 credits. Therefore, a beginning student's program of study should normally consist of four *courses* each semester plus Physical Education for 4 or 4.5 *credits*. As stated earlier, Physical Education courses are not counted in the academic course load, but you are expected to complete the four-unit P.E. requirement by the end of your sophomore year. With the approval of an academic advisor, a student may take an additional academic course or half course, or, in some cases, with the approval of a dean, a reduced load of three courses rather than four.

Grades

For the first semester of the first year, the only grades recorded on a student's transcript are Credit (CR) and No Credit (NC), which is Swarthmore's version of Pass/Fail. First-semester students will, however, be graded as usual within their courses. First-semester students receive written evaluations and "ABCD" letter grade equivalents from their instructors, copies of which will be placed in each student's file. These are referred to as "shadow grades."

Recall that because of the Buckley Amendment of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), grade reports are sent only to students. If you wish to have your parents or guardians receive a copy of your grade report, simply write and sign a note requesting this and drop it off at the Registrar's office.

Registration

Pre-registration for 4 courses plus Physical Education will occur online on the Friday afternoon of Orientation week. Student helpers will be available to assist with this simple process in various locations, both in dorms and in advertised computer clusters around campus. Most courses which are over-subscribed conduct lotteries immediately after pre-registration closes. Students who need to make adjustments to their schedule for this, or any other reason, may do so in person on Saturday morning.

A two-week Add/Drop period begins on the first day of classes. Students may make adjustments to their class schedule without any notation on their transcripts within the first two weeks of the semester. Note that not all courses can be added without penalty (or hardship) after the first week, so it is advisable to make any necessary *additions* within the first week. You will be given more details on registration once you arrive in August.



Exploring the Curriculum

To focus your studies you must first explore the curriculum and find those areas in which your abilities and interests can be best developed. If you come with definite interests, we strongly encourage you to take courses in those areas. College study may be surprisingly different than you anticipated, making these courses more or less rewarding than you expected. At the same time, exploration is also important. Whether or not you come with specific interests, you should give yourself a chance to develop new interests and take some courses in areas in which you have had little experience. This is one of the great opportunities a liberal arts college has to offer.

Where to find information:

The College's course catalog is one of the most definitive and complete sources of information about courses and lives online at: <http://www.swarthmore.edu/coursecatalog.xml>. The Dean's Office is also currently compiling guides from each department about the specific courses relevant to first years, including *first-year seminars* (more on these below). This guide will be given out once you arrive in the fall, but if available earlier, it will be posted online at the new students website.

You should also feel free to look at departmental websites as well. The College's homepage has links to each department and often you can get a terrific sense of the disciplines, faculty and departmental environment by perusing their websites. I'm guessing that many of you have already done this, possibly even before applying to Swarthmore in the first place. But even if you have, I would encourage you to explore anew. You may find that knowing you may be taking courses in these departments gives you a fresh perspective on the information you find there.

First-Year Seminars

All students are encouraged to take a first-year seminar during the Fall or Spring of their first year. First-year seminars are offered across the curriculum and are designed to introduce students to a field of study and to engage them in learning skills that will support them throughout their college experience. Each first-year seminar is limited to 12 first-year students. Many (but not all) first-year seminars count as the prerequisite to further work in the department in which they are offered.

Because many of these seminars tend to be very popular, and because enrollment is limited to 12, first-year seminars are often lotteried. The in-person registration on Saturday will be especially helpful for adding a second choice course or first-year seminar if you are lotteried out of a first choice.



Academic Advising

When you arrive on campus Tuesday, August 26, you will receive an academic orientation packet containing, among other things, a Fall course schedule, a copy of the course catalog, the guide prepared by the Dean's Office mentioned earlier, and the name (and office number) of your assigned academic advisor. You will have multiple opportunities for advising from a variety of faculty, staff and peer sources. We encourage you to consult all of them for various perspectives and advice.

Most importantly, you will meet with your assigned academic advisor on Thursday and/or Friday for individual advising, and in some cases as a small group. During meetings with your advisor, you will discuss your plans, your interests, and courses you propose. They are there to help, but ultimately, you are the one responsible for the courses you take, so come to these meetings prepared. They will be most helpful if you come having thought some about the disciplines you want to pursue at Swarthmore, taken the appropriate placement exams, gathered up the relevant placement and credit information, and explored as much about the curriculum as possible. For many of you it will be helpful to think not only about the coming semester, but also about the entire year (and perhaps even beyond). For others, it will be easier to simply focus on the first semester. Think about which strategy seems to best fit you. Even as I encourage you to begin planning and to be prepared, I also want you to think of any decisions you make now as a work in progress and to remain open to making changes as you get advice from all the various sources.

A Special Note to Premedical and Preveterinary Students

You will get a much more thorough introduction during Orientation—look for the premed meeting on the schedule once you arrive—but here are a few things to keep in mind as you think about courses.

One of the most important things you should realize is that you can major in any department, including the humanities and social sciences, and still be a successful applicant to medical school. Medical schools generally require 12 courses for admission:

- 4 *Chemistry*: typically General, Organic (I & II), and Biological Chemistry (CHEM 10, 22, 32, and 38 at Swarthmore). If you feel that you have had a weak high school chemistry preparation, you may take Chemistry 3 and 4 instead of Chemistry 10, but Chemistry 3 does not count toward the 4 chemistry courses required for medical schools. We encourage you to talk to your advisor, or the chair of the Chemistry department once you arrive if you have questions.
- 2 *Biology*: typically Cellular and Molecular, and Organismal and Population Biology (BIOL 1 and 2 at Swarthmore).
- 2 *English*: any two typically suffice.
- 2 *Math*: typically a year of Calculus, or a semester of Calculus and a semester of Statistics. Unlike the other disciplines, this requirement can be satisfied (in part or in whole) by AP credit.
- 2 *Physics*: General Physics I & II (typically PHYS 3 and 4 at Swarthmore).

Swarthmore science courses are very challenging and we strongly advise first-year students to talk to their advisors about how best to adjust, including how many science courses to take. If you have questions, Gigi Simeone, the Health Sciences Advisor (gsimeon1@swarthmore.edu), or her assistant, Jennifer Lenway (jlenway1@swarthmore.edu) are available for most of the summer.



TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

Welcome Class of 2012

Office of the Dean

Swarthmore College

Complete the Travel Form Online

If you need help getting from the Philadelphia International Airport or Philadelphia 30th Street Train Station to Swarthmore College, there will be representatives from the College's Orientation Committee available to direct you or take you from these locations to Swarthmore. This does however require you to complete the online travel form. This should be done sometime before arriving, preferably *before Friday, August 15*. To do this,

1. Log in to mySwarthmore at <https://myswat.swarthmore.edu/>
[Remember the "s" in the https.]
2. Click on the link *Class of 2012: Academics, Travel, Housing, and More*.
3. Click on the Travel tab, fill out the form and hit submit.

Note that if you are arriving by train, the representatives will be directing you to take the regional rail (R3 line) out to Swarthmore. This train costs approximately \$5.00 from 30th Street Station.

Driving Directions

Swarthmore College is located 11 miles southwest from the city of Philadelphia in the borough of Swarthmore, Pennsylvania. If you are using any of the online map and direction sites (e.g., Google Maps, Yahoo! Maps, MapQuest, or Live Search Maps), then you should use the address: 500 College Ave., Swarthmore, PA, 19081.

From the NORTH: Take the New Jersey Turnpike to Exit 6 (I-276 West/Pennsylvania Turnpike). Follow I-276 West to Exit 20 (I-476 South, towards Philadelphia/Chester). Take I-476 South to Exit 3, Media/Swarthmore. At bottom of exit ramp, follow sign for Swarthmore by turning left onto Baltimore Pike. (Directions continue below.)

From the SOUTH: Follow I-95 North to Exit 7 (in Pennsylvania), I-476 North/Plymouth Meeting. Take I-476 to Exit 3, Media/Swarthmore. At the bottom of the exit ramp, follow the sign for Swarthmore by turning right onto Baltimore Pike. (Directions continue below.)

From the EAST: From the Pennsylvania Turnpike, take exit 333, Norristown, follow signs for I-476 South. Stay on I-476 approximately 17 miles to Exit 3, Media/Swarthmore. At the bottom of the exit ramp, follow the signs to Swarthmore by turning left onto Baltimore Pike. (Directions continue below.)

From the WEST: From the Pennsylvania Turnpike, take exit 326, Valley Forge. Take I-76 East, Schuylkill Expressway, about 4 miles to I-476 South. Take I-476 approximately 12 miles to Exit 3, Media/Swarthmore. At the bottom of the exit ramp, follow the signs to Swarthmore by turning left onto Baltimore Pike. (Directions continue below.)

Stay in the right lane and in less than 1/4 mile turn right onto Route 320 South. At the first light, turn right to stay on 320. Where you will go from here depends on your housing assignment, as the first thing you will want to do is drop your things off at your room. Details will be available once you receive your housing assignment online.



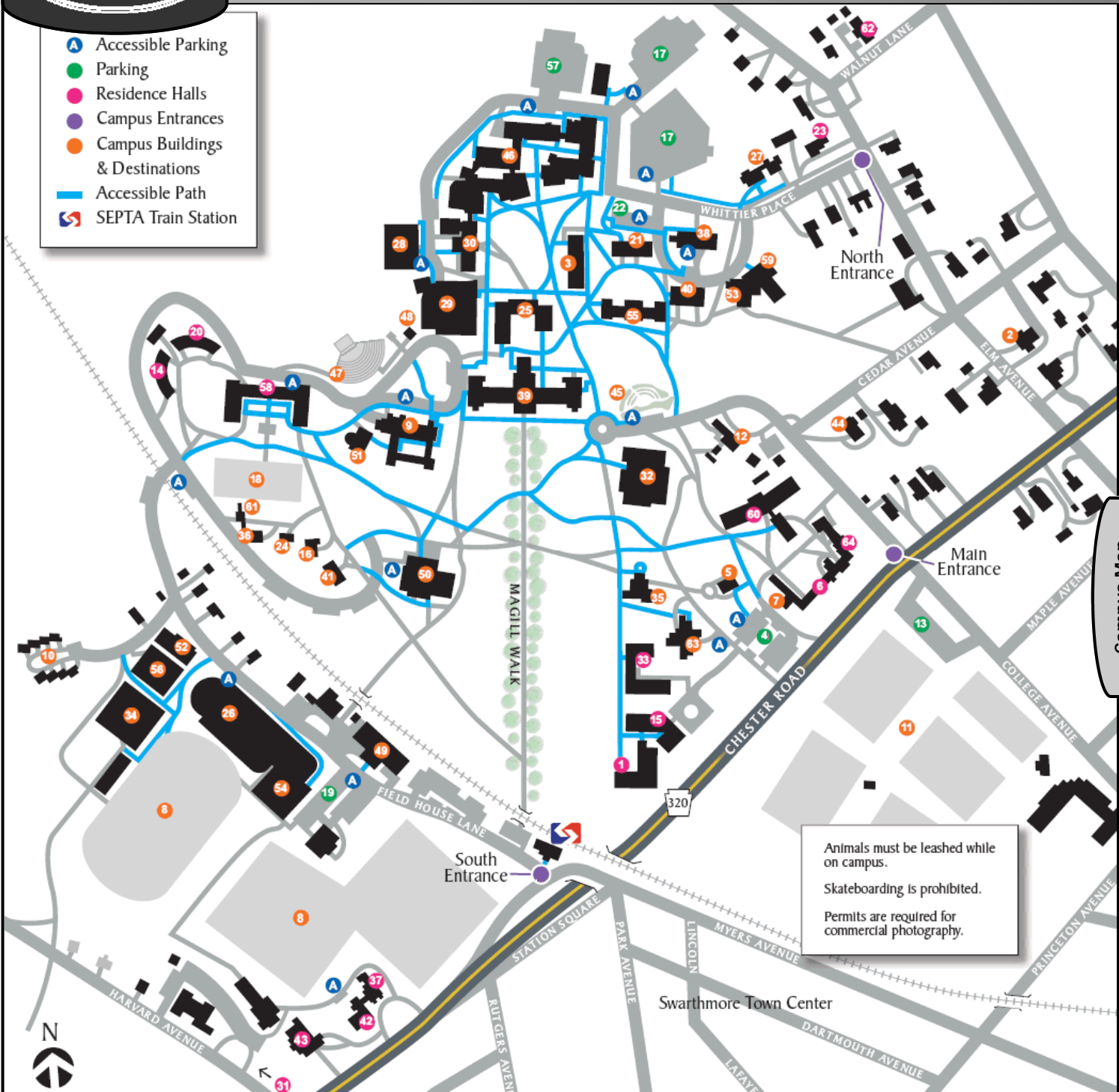
CAMPUS MAP

Welcome Class of 2012

Office of the Dean

Swarthmore College

- A Accessible Parking
- Parking
- Residence Halls
- Campus Entrances
- Campus Buildings & Destinations
- Accessible Path
- SEPTA Train Station



Animals must be leashed while on campus.
 Skateboarding is prohibited.
 Permits are required for commercial photography.

- | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Alice Paul Hall | 13 Cunningham Parking | 25 Kohlberg Hall | 37 Palmer Hall | 49 Service Building | 61 Women's Resource Center |
| 2 Ashton House | 14 Dana Hall | 26 Lamb/Miller Field House | 38 Papazian Hall | 50 Sharples Dining Hall | 62 Woolman House |
| 3 Beardsley Hall | 15 David Kemp Hall | 27 Lang Center | 39 Parrish Hall | 51 Sproul Alumni Center | 63 Worth Health Center |
| 4 Benjamin West Parking | 16 Delta Upsilon House | 28 Lang Music Building | 40 Pearson Hall | 52 Squash Courts | 64 Worth Residence Hall |
| 5 Benjamin West House | 17 DuPont Parking | 29 Lang Performing Arts Ctr. | 41 Phi Omicron Psi House | 53 Swarthmore Friends Mtg. | DESTINATIONS |
| 6 Bond & The Lodges | 18 Faulkner Tennis Courts | 30 Martin Hall | 42 Pittenger Hall | 54 Tarble Pavilion | 39 Admissions |
| 7 Bond Memorial Hall | 19 Field House Parking | 31 Mary Lyon Hall | 43 Roberts Hall | 55 Trotter Hall | 38 Administration |
| 8 Clothier Fields | 20 Hallowell Hall | 32 McCabe Library | 44 Robinson House | 56 Ware Pool | 44 Black Cultural Center |
| 9 Clothier Hall | 21 Hicks Hall | 33 Mertz Hall | 45 Rose Garden | 57 Water Tower Parking | 9 Bookstore |
| 10 Crum Ledge | 22 Hicks Parking | 34 Mullan Tennis Center | 46 Science Center | 58 Wharton Hall | 9 Intercultural Center |
| 11 Cunningham Fields | 23 Kyle House | 35 Old Tarble | 47 Scott Amphitheater | 59 Whittier House | 27 Lang Center |
| 12 Cunningham House | 24 Kitao Student Art Gallery | 36 Olde Club | 48 Scott Building | 60 Willets Hall | 5 Public Safety |



Blackboard: setting up your account

Blackboard is a course management system that many Swarthmore faculty use to deliver course content, give and collect homework, manage discussions, or more. Courses use Blackboard to varying degrees, and there are some which won't use it at all. However, chances are fairly high that at least one of your courses during your first year will require using Blackboard and so we strongly encourage you to sign in a poke around. Note that this will in fact be required if you need to take the Calculus Readiness Exam (which is different from the Math Placement Exam enclosed here).

To sign in, login to mySwarthmore by going to <https://myswat.swarthmore.edu> (again, remember the "s" in the *https*), click on *Class of 2012...* and hit the *Blackboard* tab. You'll find your username and temporary password there with a link to the Blackboard site. There are also instructions for changing your password once you've logged in.

Connect ED: setting up your account

The College has recently implemented an emergency messaging system, *Connect-ED*®. With this service, we will be able to reach everyone in the Swarthmore community at a moment's notice.

It has the ability to dial several phone numbers per person and send text messages, but of course that requires the system to have accurate phone numbers. Please login to mySwarthmore, click on *Connect ED Phone Contact*, complete the form, and hit the *Update Your Contact Information* button.

Note that *Connect-ED*® is only one part of our emergency communication strategy. We also have in place the ability to send mass voice mail to all campus phones and we are working on other ways to reach all of our classrooms and offices if necessary.

While we hope never to have to use our emergency communications system, we are comforted to know it is in place and we thank you for your help in making it functional.

CIRP Freshman Survey: what to expect

The CIRP survey asks about the opinions, experiences, and expectations of incoming students, and is used by many colleges across the country to build a better understanding of their newest class. Swarthmore has been delivering this survey for over 40 years and has found the responses extremely useful. You will hear from Dean Larimore a week or two prior to Orientation via email with details on how to take the survey. We hope that you will respond by completing the survey sometime before you get to Swarthmore.



During your first few days on campus you will meet with your Resident Assistant and new hallmates to discuss safety, the social scene and the role of alcohol in campus life. In preparation for that important discussion, **entering Swarthmore students need to complete the AlcoholIEDU online course before arriving for Orientation on August 26th.**

AlcoholIEDU is a science-based, college level, online course that provides detailed information about the effects of alcohol on the body and mind. It is designed to help you make well-informed decisions and we hope it will also help you better understand and cope with the drinking behavior of others. It is used by many of our peer institutions.

Our overarching priority with respect to alcohol and other drugs is to ensure the safety and well-being of Swarthmore students. We hope this course will help you anticipate some of the social challenges and personal decisions you will encounter, such as whether to drink, how to do so in moderation if you do, and how to comply with College policy and federal, state and local laws governing alcohol consumption.

Thank you in advance for your participation. We look forward to your arrival in a few weeks.

Accessing the Course

*You can access the course online any time after **August 1, 2007**. The course must be completed by **August 26th**. A brief follow up survey must be completed approximately 45 days after you complete the course. To access the AlcoholIEDU course:*

1. Log in to mySwarthmore at <https://myswat.swarthmore.edu/>
[Remember the "s" in the https.]
2. Click on the link: *Alcohol Education*
3. Follow the instructions.

You may log in and out of the course at the end of each section, which is marked with a "Next" button. DO NOT log out until you click the "Next" button or you will have to repeat the section again. Should you experience any difficulties or require support, Technical Support is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Simply click the "Help" button located in the upper right-hand corner of every AlcoholIEDU screen.

You will need a computer with Internet access, audio capabilities and either Internet Explorer or Mozilla's Firefox as your internet browser. Please turn off other media (music, movies, etc.) and do not use wireless while completing this course. If you do not have access to a computer at home, you can use any publicly available computer with Internet access or take the course on campus if you are scheduled to arrive early for a particular College activity or program.

The course is designed to be taken in several sittings and will take approximately 2 ½ hours to complete. We encourage you to discuss the material covered in the course with your parents.



Academic Support

Transition to college-level work at Swarthmore is a challenge in some way to all entering students and we have a number of academic supports in place to help.

As mentioned on the prior page, you will meet with your academic advisor during orientation. In addition to helping you select courses, your advisor can also help with effective strategies for setting goals and managing your time. *We expect you to see your advisor regularly during the semester to discuss how your initial choices are working and how to implement changes when desirable.*

All teaching faculty schedule office hours. Talking with your professor can be of invaluable help in clarifying any aspect of the course content and what you are expected to do. *The ability to have regular contact with your professors is one of the great advantages of a Swarthmore education and so we encourage you to go meet with them.*

We have a number of tutorial services, subject clinics, and workshops on study skills, time management, and reading efficiency available during the year. All are available free of charge and we encourage *all* students to take advantage of these opportunities.

You will also have access to a *Student Academic Mentor (SAM)*. The Student Academic Mentoring Program is designed especially for first-year students. SAMs are experienced students who have been specially selected and trained to help newer students learn the ropes quickly here. They work with students particularly on issues of course selection, time management, reading and studying effectively, test-taking, and accessing resources, but they are also just generally available to answer whatever questions come up and to offer reassurance.

Each incoming student will meet a SAM shortly after arrival, and SAMs will be available for academic advising at specified times of Orientation Week. A SAM will also be living in each residence hall and will be looking forward to meeting you. *I enthusiastically encourage you to take advantage of the SAMs' support.*

In addition to SAMs, there are other forms of peer support such as Writing Associates, and mentors associated with specific courses, in particular science disciplines like biology, computer science, engineering, and math to name a few. We expect you to take complete advantage of these support mentors—we see using them as a critical part of enhancing the learning experience at Swarthmore.

Special Needs

Students with special academic needs, including visual, hearing, learning, and/or physical impairment, or any conditions which may require special equipment, special materials, interpreters, classroom scheduling to accommodate wheelchairs or helping equipment, or academic accommodations of any kind should **submit documentation**. Please contact Tracey Rush, Coordinator of Learning Resources and Student Disability Services if you have not already done so, or have questions. She can be reached by email at: trush1@swarthmore.edu or by phone at: 610-690-5014. Once we have your documentation, Mrs. Rush will contact you about making and receiving requests for accommodations.



You should realize that *academic credit, which will eventually appear on the transcript, is different from advanced placement* or standing, i.e., the level of one's first course in a subject. Moreover, each department sets its own policy on awarding credit or advanced standing, and some departments require taking a placement examination, taking a Swarthmore course final, or taking a Swarthmore course in the appropriate discipline to validate a student's previous work. The subsequent pages contain tables that summarize the rules from various departments based on the most common ways students tend to receive credit and placement—by earning a particular grade on a relevant College Board Advanced Placement exam or International Baccalaureate exam. If the tables do not address your particular situation or concern, then please send an email to academics@swarthmore.edu.

If you have taken one of these exams, and have already told us your scores (via the forms sent earlier), then great! But *academic credit* cannot be earned until our Registrar's Office has received an official copy of your scores from the appropriate source. If you intend on using your exam scores only for *placement*, then in most cases, departments will award advanced placement (without credit) before official scores arrive. Official copies should still be sent (or brought), but if they do not arrive before advising and registration begin, it should not be a problem. As you plan your Fall schedules, first-year students should be particularly interested in the question of advanced placement.

One of the things we strongly encourage you to do is to let us know which Swarthmore College placement exams you are planning to take. This should be done online some time before arriving, preferably *before Friday, August 15*. To do this,

1. Log in to mySwarthmore at <https://myswat.swarthmore.edu/>
[Remember the "s" in the https.]
2. Click on the link *Class of 2012: Academics, Travel, Housing, and More*.
3. Click on the *Placement Exams* tab, fill out the form and submit.

Swarthmore Placement Exams

- **Mathematics** in fact has two exams, one of which is included in this mailing. All students should note that *ANY STUDENT INTENDING ON TAKING MATH AT ANY TIME DURING HIS/HER SWARTHMORE CAREER NEEDS TO TAKE THIS PLACEMENT EXAM or have an appropriate AP or IB score*.
- **French, German, and Spanish** exams are offered online between August 9 and August 23. You must complete the *Placement Exams* form online to get more details.
- **Chemistry, Chinese, Music, Physics, and Russian** exams are offered on the Wednesday of orientation. When you arrive in the Fall, you will need to check the Orientation schedule for the precise times and places these exams will be given.
- **Arabic and Japanese** placement exams are taken on the first day of classes.



PLACEMENT & CREDIT: *Details by Department*

Welcome Class of 2012

Office of the Dean

Swarthmore College

<i>Program</i>	<i>Exam Score</i>	<i>Credit Awarded</i>	<i>Adv. Placement</i>	<i>Comments/Conditions</i>
Art History	AP: 5	1		Students who receive a 5 on the AP exam in art history will be granted one unit of credit upon completion of an art history course in the department.
	Higher IB: 6 or 7			
Biology	Brit. A levels: A	1	Possible Adv. Placement for Bio 010-050, with instructor's permission	Must complete 1 Swarthmore Bio course with lab (Bio 001, 002 or 010-050)
	AP: 5			
	Higher IB: 6 or 7			
Chemistry	AP: 5	1	No need to take Chemistry Placement Exam with these scores.	Scores count only if earned no earlier than junior year of high school. No AP/IB credit if you take Chem 001 or Chem 010. If continuing in Chem, take Chem 010H.
	Higher IB: 6 or 7			
Classics	AP [Vergil]: 5	1 max.	Possible adv. placement with lower score	
	AP [Latin Lit.]: 5			
	Higher IB: 6 or 7			
Computer Science	AP [A]: 4 or 5	1	Placement out of CS 21 for 5 on the "AB" AP exam	Must complete 1 Swarthmore CS course. Students with less than a 5 on the 'AB' exam are encouraged to discuss placement with any CS faculty member.
	AP [AB]: 4 or 5			
Economics	AP [Macro]: 5	none	Option to place out of Econ 001	If option is used, must take another Econ course before taking Econ 011 or 021.
	AP [Micro]: 5			
	Higher IB: 6 or 7			
Engineering	Prior college-level work may be awarded credit by individual application, not as a matter of policy			
English Lang/ Composition	AP: 4 or 5	1	No exemptions from Dept. prerequisites	Does not count toward English Major
	Higher IB: 6 or 7			
English Lit/ Composition	AP: 4 or 5	1	No exemptions from Dept. prerequisites	May count toward English Major
	Higher IB: 6 or 7			
Environmental Studies	AP [Env. Sci.]: 5	1	Credit does not satisfy divisional distribution requirements.	Must complete 1 course that satisfies ENVS program (not an "adjunct" course)
US History European History World History	AP: 4 or 5	1 each (2 max.)	Possible placement in advanced courses, with instructor's permission.	Must pass with C or better one Hist course (001-011) for first AP/IB credit; must pass with C or better any other Hist course for 2nd credit.
	Higher IB: 6 or 7			



PLACEMENT & CREDIT: *Details by Department*

Welcome Class of 2012

Office of the Dean

Swarthmore College

<i>Program</i>	<i>Exam Score</i>	<i>Credit Awarded</i>	<i>Adv. Placement</i>	<i>Comments/Conditions</i>
Mathematics	AP [BC]: 5	2	See placement options online	Equals MATH 015 & 025
	AP [AB or AB-sub]: 5	1.5		Equals MATH 015, the first half of MATH 025, and placement into MATH 026
	Higher IB: 6 or 7			
	AP [BC, AB or AB-sub]: 4	1		Equals Math 015
	Higher IB: 5			
<p>Note: taking a math class at any time at Swarthmore requires either an AP or Higher IB score, or taking Swarthmore's Mathematics Placement Exam and/or the Calculus Readiness Exam. Students interested in taking an honors course are encouraged to take particular sections of the placement exam. Please complete the online placement exam form for more details.</p> <p>Note: If you want credit for a Calculus course you took before Swarthmore, you may take the regularly scheduled final exam for Math 15 and/or Math 25 during the fall of your first year. If you receive a C or better, you will be granted credit (without a grade). <i>Students who intend to do this should notify the First-year Math Placement Advisor during Orientation Week.</i> Note: Credit obtained in the ways outlined above is subject to the rule that you cannot take more than 10 credits in one academic year without paying extra tuition.</p>				
Languages: Chinese, French, German, Spanish	AP: 4 or 5 Higher IB: 6 or 7	1 per lang.		Must complete 1 Swarthmore course in that language
Music Theory	Possible adv. placement			
Physics	AP [Mech]: 5	1	Possible placement (equal to having taken PHYS 003)	Must pass (with a grade of D or better) an appropriate exam administered by the department.
	AP [Elec./Mag]: 5	1	Possible placement (equal to having taken PHYS 004)	
	Higher IB: 6 or 7	2	Possible placement (equal to having taken PHYS 003 and 004)	
Political Science	AP [US Govt]: 5	1 max.		Majors are still urged to take 2 intro courses as prereq for advanced work
	AP [Comp Govt]: 5			
Psychology	AP: 5	none	Possible placement out of Intro Psychology	For exemption from PSYC 001, consult Dept. for guidance and admission to suitable first Psyc course.
	Higher IB: 6 or 7			
Soc / Anth	Higher IB: 6 or 7	Credit awarded on a case by case basis		
Statistics	AP: 4 or 5	1	See placement online	Equals STAT 011
Studio Art	AP: 5	1		Must present portfolio to waive STUA 001
	Higher IB: 6 or 7			

Placement & Credit



PLACEMENT & CREDIT: *MATHEMATICS*

Department of Mathematics and Statistics

♦ Swarthmore College

Welcome to Swarthmore! In the next few pages, you will find lots of details about placement procedures for the Department of Math & Stat. The main point, however, is the following:

In order to take a mathematics course at Swarthmore—at any time, not just during your first year—first year students must take or have taken at least one of the following:

- the AB or BC Calculus AP exam and scored a 4 or 5;
- the Higher Level IB Mathematics Exam and scored a 6 or 7;
- one or both of the Swarthmore College placement exams, as appropriate (see explanation below).

Students who do not either take a Swarthmore test or do well enough on one of the 2 standardized exams mentioned above will not be allowed to enroll in a mathematics or statistics course.

The College Board should send your AP scores to Swarthmore directly, but it is always a good idea to bring your official AP or IB transcript with you in case they do not. As mentioned earlier, if you have already told us your scores, then great, but at some point (soon) we will need official notice.

If you take our own placement exam, you may be placed out of a certain course without being awarded credit for it, but this lack of credit should not cause you any problems. Most departments or other institutions that require college mathematics quite happily accept advanced placement itself or, failing that, credit for any coursework subsequent to advanced placement (as opposed to requiring credit for a specific introductory course). For instance, engineering programs and medical schools usually accept credit for more advanced math courses. If you are concerned about this issue, check with the appropriate program or department advisor when you get here. Also note that we do offer credit for calculus by taking the appropriate final. Consult the placement and credit table on the previous page for details.

The Department's placement tests, described in the next subsection, are used for *placement purposes only*, not for credit. Placement results do not appear on your transcript.

The Math/Stat First-Year Advisor is Professor Philip Everson. Any questions you have that can't be answered by this mailing should be directed towards him. He can be reached by email (peverso1@swarthmore.edu) or by phone (610-328-8245). Or, look for him during Orientation in Science Center 141. In fact, any member of the Department will be happy to talk to you at Orientation.

On the subsequent pages, you will find:

- A description of the two exams
- A brief introduction to courses offered
- A Guide to who should take which test
- The Math Placement Test

As a final note, let us answer one of the questions frequently asked of the department: **should I buy a graphics calculator for math?** No course in our department requires a graphics or symbolic calculator. Our courses typically use computers for such calculations. But calculators are welcome and often useful, other departments may make heavier use of them, and many Swarthmore math students use them. The most common brand is Texas Instruments, and some faculty are familiar with the TI series.



PLACEMENT & CREDIT: *MATHEMATICS*

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The Department administers two placement tests:

A *Calculus Placement Test* for students whose preparation might place them out of one or more semesters of calculus. The last section is used for placement *into* honors sections. This test is the last part of this packet; you may take it at your convenience over the summer (untimed, more than one sitting allowed, but closed book) and mail it back. To determine whether you should take the test, either refer to the next section or answer the series of questions on the *Placement Exams* form online at <https://mySwat.swarthmore.edu>.

A timed offering of the exam will be given at Swarthmore during Orientation Week in August as well, but *it is very much to your advantage to take it over the summer if you can*. If you take our exam and mail it in over the summer, you may review as much as you want before taking it and our recommendation will be waiting for you at the start of Orientation Week. If you take our test on campus during Orientation, under rushed conditions, the results may not portray you well, as it will be a long time since you may have thought about calculus, and your skills may likely be rusty.

A *Calculus Readiness Test* for students who have not had calculus or are unsure if they are ready to begin calculus or other first-year college math courses. This test is closed book and untimed, but you should do it in one sitting. *The Readiness Test is required for all students who do not take our Calculus Placement Test (or do not have placement by an AP or IB score) and who think they may take some math or stat at any time in their Swarthmore careers*. Even students who do take the Calculus Placement Test may be required to take the Readiness Test as well. You should take it this summer if you have not had calculus, or if you start on the Calculus Placement Test and find that you can't do very much of it. Taking the Readiness test now will give you and us early warning if it looks like mathematics at Swarthmore will be hard for you. The Readiness exam is online this year and requires you to log in to Blackboard. See page 9 of this packet for details on how to do that.

The time and place for the Orientation Week version of these tests will be listed on the schedule that you receive when you arrive on campus in the Fall.

A *Brief Introduction to Courses Offered*

There are 3 different groups of courses from which a first-year student typically chooses. The best known and most popular, but not necessarily the best for *you*, is the *calculus sequence*—Calculus I: Math 15 (functions, derivatives, differential equations...); Calculus II: 25/26 (integration, series, ...); Linear Algebra: Math 27; Several Variable Calculus: Math 34.

The second group is *statistics*—Statistical Thinking: Stat 1 (intuitive approach to statistics); Statistical Methods: Stat 11; Data Analysis and Visualization: Stat 31.

The third might be called "the rest of math", courses on basic ideas (Math 3) or on areas not covered in the calculus sequence (Discrete Math: Math 29). If you are planning a major that requires or recommends the traditional calculus topics (majors such as physics, chemistry, engineering, economics, and of course mathematics) you will probably want to start or continue in the calculus sequence.



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A Guide to who should take which test (if any)

The purpose of making you take a test is to help us make a recommendation to you for the Swarthmore calculus course that is most consistent with your mathematical preparation. In most cases you don't have to take our test if you have received credit by way of an AP or Higher Level IB exam. However, if you are concerned that this automatic placement is incorrect, we urge you to take our test. Our test is not assigned a letter grade, and it will never become part of your record in any math courses that you take.

Note that the guide below exists online as a series of questions (as part of the placement exams form). If you do not use the form online, simply find yourself in the categories on the following pages. If you fit several categories, the one which gives you the most placement applies. Note that, although the calculus placement test determines which course in the calculus sequence you place into, you are encouraged to consider starting with a course outside the calculus sequence!

You have not studied calculus.

Take the Calculus Readiness Exam online. First set up your Blackboard account as described earlier. Once logged in to Blackboard, click on the Math Readiness Placement Exam link in the upper right. Take all three parts of the exam.

You have studied calculus but have not taken an AP or IB Higher Level math exam.

Take the enclosed Math Placement test, preferably over the summer. Take it no matter how little or how much calculus you have studied, and even if you have taken many courses after calculus. Take it whether or not you wish to continue in calculus or plan to take some other sort of math. If you start to take our Placement Test and find you can't answer more than 2 or 3 questions with confidence, please stop and take the Readiness Exam online instead; see the instructions above.

You took the IB Higher Level Math exam and

scored < 5. Take our Calculus Placement Test.

scored 5. We will give you credit for 1 semester of calculus (Math 15) and place you into Math 25. If you are completely satisfied with this placement, don't take our test. If you feel you might know more than that (and you may well), do take our Calculus Placement test, *starting with Section 2.*

scored > 5. We will give you credit for 1.5 semesters of calculus (Math 15 and half of Math 25) and place you into Math 26. If you feel you know more than that, take our Calculus Placement test, *starting with Section 3.*

You took the AP Calculus AB exam and

scored < 4. Take our Calculus Placement test.

scored 4. We will give you credit for 1 semester of calculus (Math 15) and place you into Math 25. If you are completely satisfied with this placement, don't take our test. If you feel you might know more than that (and you may well), do take our Calculus Placement test, *starting with Section 2.*

scored 5. We will give you credit for 1.5 semesters of calculus (Math 15 and half of Math 25) and place you into Math 26. If you feel you know more than that, take our Placement test, *starting with Section 3.*



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You took the AP Calculus BC exam and

received a main score < 4. Take our Calculus Placement test.

received a main score of 4. We will give you credit for 1 semester of calculus (Math 15) and place you into Math 25. If you are completely satisfied with this placement, don't take our test. If you feel you might know more than that (and you may well), do take our Calculus Placement test, *starting with Section 2*.

received a main score of 5. We will give you credit for 2 semesters of calculus (Math 15 and Math 25) and place you into Math 27. If you are interested in one of our honors courses, see below.

Note: We count AB subscores on the BC exam the same way we count scores on the AB exam.

You want to take one of our Honors courses

You should take *Section 4* of our placement test, and earlier parts if you will not be receiving AP/IB credit for Math 15 and Math 25. An AP or IB score is not sufficient to be placed into an honors course.

You haven't received your IB or AP score yet.

You can wait until you get the score later this summer to decide whether to take our test, but it might be to your advantage to take it now, when calculus is more fresh in your mind.

You can't take our placement test until very late in the summer.

Don't rush or panic. Express mail is unnecessary. Take our test when you can. If there is time to mail it to us so that it gets here before you do, mail it. Otherwise, bring it with you and give it to Prof. Everson. In any event, you can always take it during Orientation, though this is harder on you.

You took the British A-Levels or some other national exam instead of an AP or IB math exam.

Take our Calculus Placement Exam. If you think you should receive placement for a non-calculus course, bring to Swarthmore any syllabi materials and coursework you can, to discuss with the Placement Advisor.

You want to start in something outside the calculus sequence, say, statistics or discrete math.

That's great, but you still must have a placement score to take any math course. Even if you do not plan to take a math course initially, at some point you may want to take a math course. So take the Readiness test if you haven't had calculus and the Placement exam if you have.

You have taken courses beyond calculus and want to place out of them

(e.g., linear algebra, multivariable calculus, differential equations, discrete math).

Please take Section 4 of our Calculus Placement test, more if you have not placed out of Math 15 and Math 25 based on standardized test scores as described above. If you believe you should place out of *Honors Linear Algebra* or *Honors Multivariate Calculus* (because you took a high-powered version of one or both of these courses and you are contemplating advanced work in mathematics) **also** submit your solutions to the appropriate honors placement problems downloadable from

http://math.swarthmore.edu/placement/advanced_work.html

In any event, bring to the Placement Advisor as much material from your postcalculus courses as possible: your exams, homework sets, your texts (or at least their titles and authors' names).

None of the above.

Contact Professor Everson at peverso1@swarthmore.edu and explain your situation.