

# The Writing on the Wall

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## Welcome to CCAS!

All of us here at the Cross-College Advising Service would like to extend a warm welcome to our entering first-year students. We know that coming to college is a very exciting time, and yet it can also be a challenging time. The advisors at CCAS are here to help you get off to a good start while making the most of your opportunities at UW-Madison.

CCAS specializes in helping students explore their academic options. Our advisors are knowledgeable about all the programs and majors offered on campus, and we are dedicated to helping you find the path that best suits your interests, abilities, and goals.

Being undecided as a freshman is the most

natural thing in the world. Being open to possibilities while actively exploring and evaluating your academic and career options is, for most students, the best way to begin your college years. Each year, about one-third of the incoming freshmen at UW-Madison are assigned to CCAS advisors—which makes CCAS the largest advising office on campus. I hope to see all of the CCAS advisees at the Freshman Orientation on August 31st (see info on this page), and I'd encourage you to make the most of the advising resources here at CCAS and the Exploration Center for Majors and Careers.

~Timothy Walsh, Director

## Explore Your Options!

Are you undecided about your major? Are you unsure about what you might like to do with your life? Are you curious about what you can do with a Liberal Arts major? If you answered "yes" to any of these, you should visit The Exploration Center for Majors & Careers. In the CCAS Exploration Center, we have a lot of ways to help you get a handle on all of these questions. You can work on a computerized career planning program, watch videos that feature people talking about their jobs, read occupational information in one of many books on different career areas, complete a standardized assessment designed to help you pinpoint your skill areas, talk with a Career Peer (a student trained to assist you with your exploration), PLUS MORE! The Exploration Center is open Monday-Friday. If you'd like to make an appointment to see a Career Advisor, check out the resources, or to find out more, call 265-4497. Get in on the action and get on with your life!

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## COLLEGE! TOPICS TO DISCUSS (FOR PARENTS & STUDENTS)

The time to make the transition to college has finally come. This is an exciting time for everyone, but you may also be finding it a little confusing and stressful. Below is a helpful checklist for your family to browse through and discuss. We hope your conversations will make for a smooth transition into the college years.

- Share expectations and educational goals by guiding rather than pressuring; allowing students to pursue their interests and experience college in their own way is important for self-discovery.
- Discuss the possibility that academic problems may come up, and look into the support services readily available.
- Encourage your student to consult with his/her advisor about scheduling and choosing courses.
- Discuss the wide variety of majors available at UW-Madison (see page 22, [Undergraduate Catalog 2007-2009](#)), and encourage your student to talk with his/her advisor about how to choose a major.
- Read about the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and discuss what it means regarding student records (<http://parents.registrar.wisc.edu/ferpa2.stm>).
- Discuss the importance of gaining life experiences by getting involved in student organizations, volunteering, working, and connecting with others in the res halls.

## CCAS Orientations

On Friday, August 31, CCAS will hold our Fall orientations for new freshmen and **Transfer** students that are assigned to CCAS. **Freshmen** students are required to attend this meeting, to be held in B10 Ingraham Hall. Transfer students are strongly encouraged to attend their meeting, location TBD. Students will hear about how CCAS works, how to avoid pitfalls, will learn about key academic survival skills, and the Big 10 Secrets for Success! Please make every effort to attend your assigned session; if this is not possible, please attend the other session (freshmen). **Freshmen:** A-L (last name): 9:30-10:15; letters M-Z (last name): 10:45-11:30. Freshmen students will be done in time to attend the Chancellor's Convocation at noon in the Kohl Center (lunch included!). **Transfer Students, 1:30, location TBD.**

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## Advising Notes

At CCAS we provide advising services to students through many means and at many locations throughout campus. We advise students via appointments, email, group advising sessions, and walk-ins. In addition to our main office in 10 Ingraham Hall, we have residence-hall-based offices in Bradley (serving the Lakeshore area), Chadbourne, Sellery, Witte and Ogg. In general, we are easy to find and appointments are plentiful.

### § MAKING AN APPOINTMENT

- ★ Call our main office and let the receptionist know who your assigned advisor is.
- ★ Your appointment will last 30 minutes.
- ★ November and December are very busy times for advising, so you should call 1-3 weeks in advance for an appointment.
- ★ You do not need to wait until the Timetable is available to schedule an appointment.
- ★ Freshmen typically register for the Spring semester in late November and early December.
- ★ Late September and early October are good times to discuss interests, majors, and careers.
- ★ Remember to keep your appointment! Rescheduling appointments during November and December can be very difficult. If you can't make it, please call to cancel or reschedule.



Days go by...  
**CALENDAR**

<b>CCAS ORIENTATIONS (FRESHMEN &amp; TRANSFER)</b>	<b>FRI, AUG 31</b>
<b>FIRST DAY OF CLASSES</b>	<b>TUES, SEPT 4</b>
<b>LAST DAY TO DROP (W/O COURSES ON TRANSCRIPT)</b>	<b>WED, SEPT 12</b>
<b>LAST DAY TO ADD</b>	<b>FRI, SEPT 14</b>
<b>LAST DAY TO CHANGE COURSE TO PASS/FAIL</b>	<b>FRI, SEPT 28</b>
<b>LAST DAY TO DROP</b>	<b>FRI, NOV 2</b>

## Help!

*(when you need it)*

Many students experience difficulty when making the transition to the demands of higher education. There are many **ACADEMIC SUPPORT SERVICES** available to help you get off on the right foot, stay on track, and be successful. Here are a few:

- ◆ **GUTS (Greater University Tutoring Service)**  
263-5666  
GUTS provides individual and group tutoring, study groups, and study skills counseling.
- ◆ **Writing Center**  
[www.wisc.edu/writing/](http://www.wisc.edu/writing/)  
Free, individual help with academic writing—organization, style, and mechanics with papers for any course and at any level (except for courses that satisfy Communications A).
- ◆ **Math Tutorial Program**  
263-6817  
Small-group tutoring for students in 95, 101, 112, 113, 114, 171/272, 211, 221, and 222. By invitation only.
- ◆ **Chemistry Learning Center**  
265-5497  
Individual and small-group tutoring for students in Chem 103 and 104.
- ◆ **Business Learning Center**  
262-1186  
Open to all who need help with business-related courses: Acct 100, Gen Bus 300, Econ 101 and 102, and Finance 300. Enrollment required.



**MAIN OFFICE HOURS**  
Room 10 Ingraham Hall  
Monday-Friday  
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**EXPLORATION CENTER HOURS**  
Room 6 Ingraham Hall  
Monday-Friday  
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**RES. HALL ADVISING OFFICE HOURS**  
Call CCAS main office, or check with your housefellow.

## Liberal Arts vs. PRE~PROFESSIONAL Programs

At UW-Madison, students can choose majors from two basic categories: pre-professional and liberal arts.

Pre-professional programs, such as engineering, nursing, education, and business:

- prepare students for specific fields.
- require heavy class loads in those specific areas.

In Liberal Arts programs, students:

- are less likely to work in their “major” field, but rather, have a wide range of options available to them based on their skills and interests.
- take classes in general areas of study, and take more credits in departments they are not majoring in, allowing for great diversity of choice and flexibility.
- are not trained for specific careers, but gain many skills that employers seek -- such as problem-solving, analysis, communication, and collaboration.

Employers value both pre-professional and liberal arts degrees, so students should choose one that fits their interests, strengths, values, and goals.