

# From the Benjamin Franklin College Dean's Office



Dear Franklinites,

Welcome to our newest Franklinites, and welcome back to our returning Franklinites - it is so wonderful to have you all on campus! I hope you all had wonderful summers (I'd love to hear about them) and are ready to settle into the term.

Please take a look at the full newsletter to be reminded of pertinent deadlines for the Fall term, and sophomores, juniors, and seniors, please pay special attention to your start of term notes which you promised you would read during yesterday's check-in meetings. I won't say which class year answered most questions correctly during the check-ins, but one class year definitely knew all the right answers!

Happy first day of classes!

Warmest,

Dean Rencher

- "Each new day is a blank page in the diary of your life. The secret of success is in turning that diary into the best story you possibly can." — Douglas Pagels

## CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

Aug. W Fall classes begin.  
28

Aug. F Friday classes do not meet; Monday classes meet instead.  
30

Sept. 2M Labor Day; classes do not meet.

Sept. T Add/drop period ends, 5:00 p.m.  
10

Sept. T All students planning to complete degree requirements at the end of the fall term must file a  
10 petition by this date.

Sept. T Students in their final term of enrollment must petition to complete the requirements of two  
10 majors by this date.

Sept. W Withdrawal from Yale College on or before this date entitles a student to a full rebate of fall-  
11 term tuition (Undergraduate Regulations).

Sept. W Final deadline to apply for fall-term Leave of Absence.  
11

Sept. Th Last day to withdraw from a course offered in the first half of the fall term without the  
19 course appearing on the transcript.

Sept. S Withdrawal from Yale College on or before this date entitles a student to a rebate of one-half  
21 of fall-term tuition. See Undergraduate Regulations.

Oct. 1 T Applications for spring 2025 Term Abroad close, 11:59 p.m.

Oct. F Last day of courses offered in the first half of the fall term.  
11

Oct. F Last day to withdraw from a course offered in the first half of the fall term.  
11

Oct. F Last day to convert from a letter grade to the Cr/D/F option in a course offered in the first  
11 half of the fall term.

## *A Note on Deadlines*

This newsletter contains many other details and deadlines. Please be aware—if you are not already—that **Yale College deadlines are firm**. Missing deadlines may have serious consequences. I and others will often provide timely reminders, but it is your responsibility to stay on top of these deadlines.

### **Start-of-Term Dean's Notes for First-Years**

- Distributional v. credit requirements
- Credit requirements for first year
  - First-years need to earn **8 course credits** to be in academic good standing at the end of the spring semester to be promoted to sophomore standing.
  - Most first-years take **4 courses**, especially the first semester. We recommend 4 or 4.5 course credits to begin with, in part so that you have time and energy to devote to making the academic and social transition to life at Yale.
- Distributional requirements for the first year:
  - Students must enroll in at least one course credit in two of the three required Skills groups: Writing (WR), Quantitative Reasoning (QR), and Language (L)
  - While first-years are only required to enroll in two of these three skills, it will be in your best interest to enroll in one course in each of the three skills areas during the first year.
  - Yale College uses a tool called Yale Degree Audit that tracks your progress to degree. Each term, my office will remind you to check that Degree Audit regularly to ensure that you are on track with your academic requirements.
  - Consider using your two expiring Credit/D/Fail options during your first year. They're intended to help you explore new or challenging fields. As the name implies, if you don't use them this year, they will expire (but you'll still have four more to use in future years).

## Start-of-Term Dean's Notes for Sophomores

### *Important Notes on Course Enrollment*

- The University Registrar's Office has a helpful website devoted to course registration, at [registration.yale.edu](https://registration.yale.edu).
- During the Add/Drop period, you may add courses (if the course is open or you have permission to enroll) and drop courses within Yale Course Search without a fee. The Add/Drop period ends at 5 pm ET on September 10, and the courses listed on your registration worksheet at that time will constitute your fall course schedule. After September 10, you will need my permission to make any changes to your schedule, and the Registrar will charge a \$5 processing fee for each course added or dropped.
- Your "Canvas worksheet" synchronizes with Canvas, and you may load as many as 5 courses onto it. Including a course on your Canvas worksheet grants you "visitor" access to those courses' Canvas sites' "Assignments" and "Announcements" features, and that visitor access will last for the duration of the Add/Drop period.
- Be sure to distinguish your registration worksheet (used to enroll in courses) from your Canvas worksheet (used as a sort of scratch pad). Keep in mind that, to enroll in a course, you **must** include it on your **registration worksheet**.

### *Overloads, Overlaps, Professional School Courses, and Other Petitions*

- You need my permission to enroll for an overload of more than 5.5 course credits and you must have sound academic reasons for doing so. You also need my permission to enroll for an underload of fewer than 3.5 course credits. To request an overload or an underload, make an appointment with me as soon as possible.
- Enrollment in courses that overlap in meeting times is generally not permitted. If you find you **MUST** enroll in two courses that overlap in meeting times, such an overlap may not be more than fifteen minutes for synchronous courses. Overlaps require the permission of both instructors (**even if one of the courses is recorded, and even if you will be missing class time in only one of the two courses**) AND an online petition through my office to the Committee on Honors and Academic Standing. There must be sound academic reasons for such an overlap. For more information on overlaps, including guidelines on overlaps of asynchronous courses, please review the section on Course Enrollment in the [Academic Regulations](#). This petition is due by the end of the Add/Drop Period, and sooner would be prudent.
- No more than four course credits completed under the Credit/D/Fail option — not including the one or two "expiring" course credits you may have taken during your first year at Yale — may be offered toward the bachelor's degree. You may elect no more than two course credits under the CR/D/Fail option in a term. In each term, a student must elect at least two

courses, representing at least two course credits, for letter grades or the mark of Pass, in any combination. The deadline to convert a full-term course from a letter grade to CR/D/Fail mode is the last day of classes, which this fall is December 6. The deadlines for half-term courses are given in the Yale College Calendar with Pertinent Deadlines in the online *Yale College Programs of Study*. These deadlines are strictly enforced.

- There are restrictions on the number of independent study or directed reading courses you may take in any one term and throughout your course of study. See the YCPS for details: <http://catalog.yale.edu/ycps/academic-regulations/course-credits-course-loads/>. Such courses may not be used to fulfill any distributional requirements. Independent study courses, other than senior projects and certain other courses designated for A-F grading by the department offering the course, are graded Pass/Fail. Students may not petition for a conversion from P/F to A-F grading; only the DUS of the department or program offering the course may do so.
- To enroll in one of the Yale professional schools, you will need to submit a request form, [available online](#) at the Registrar's Forms & Petitions site. Enrollment in such courses will not be recorded by the Registrar's Office without this form. Note that not all professional school courses earn credit in Yale College. If the course earns no Yale College credit, it will not appear on your transcript. New for this year: if you wish to enroll in a School of Management course, you must instead go directly to the SOM website. Our office will include the link to the SOM request form in an upcoming newsletter [*Deans: here it is:* [https://som.yale.edu/programs/resources-non-som-students?check\\_logged\\_in=1](https://som.yale.edu/programs/resources-non-som-students?check_logged_in=1)]
- You may not enroll in a graduate or professional school course designated as an independent study, nor may you apply credit earned in a graduate or professional school course to any of the Yale College distributional requirements.
- If you are interested in petitioning to earn double credit in a single-credit course, please [read the relevant section in the YCPS](#), and then consult with me. The deadline to submit this petition is Midterm, but I recommend that you do so well before that date.

### ***Sophomore Academic Benchmarks***

- By the end of the fourth term of enrollment you must have enrolled for at least one course credit in each of the three area categories, and for at least one course credit in each of the three skills categories. You should continue to enroll in language courses to fulfill the language skills requirement. All skills requirements, including language requirements, must be completed by the end of the junior year. It's best to take your language courses in consecutive terms of enrollment.
- No courses taken under the Credit/D/Fail option may be used to fulfill the distributional requirements for the bachelor's degree or for the junior year.

- By the end of your fourth term of enrollment, you must have successfully completed a minimum of 16 course credits to be promoted to junior standing.

### *Sophomore Advising*

- Advising information for sophomores, including information on a range of tutoring resources, is available on the “Advising Resources” website (at <http://advising.yalecollege.yale.edu/>)
- At the end of last year, you either indicated you would remain with your first-year college adviser, or you submitted an online form to switch to a new college adviser (a faculty member). If you did not submit a form last spring, now’s the time, using the [Change-of-Adviser form](#).
- Our college advising system allows you to change advisers at any time this year, but you may only switch to a faculty member, and then, only once per term.
- Prospective STEM majors are strongly advised to consult with the DUS of the major about course selection and declare their STEM major now or during the first semester of their sophomore year. Engineering majors should also declare their major now, if they haven’t already.

### *Notes for Sophomores from Yale Study Abroad*

Sophomores in their second term of enrollment may study abroad for Yale course credit. If you are interested in studying abroad this spring term or next year, begin planning course selections now and be especially mindful of whether you have sufficient ability in a language to study abroad in a program in which instruction is given in that language; you should also consult with your DUS or faculty adviser to see if you can complete the requirements of your major with a term or year abroad as part of your program of study.

Most applications for a spring term 2025 abroad are due by October 1, 2024; applications for Fall term 2025 and for year-long 2025-2026 study abroad programs are due by April 1, 2025. Visit [studyabroad.yale.edu](http://studyabroad.yale.edu) for more information.

The deadline to apply for 2025 Yale Summer Session Programs Abroad is February 4, 2025. If you are considering credit for summer study abroad in 2025 with non-Yale programs, you must apply for approval through the [Summer Abroad program](#). The deadline to apply for credit for a Non-Yale Summer Abroad program is March 4, 2025. Information about the summer study abroad application process, including a list of eligible programs, is available at [studyabroad.yale.edu](http://studyabroad.yale.edu).

### *Undergraduate Regulations*

All Yale College students are governed by, and expected to familiarize themselves with, the Undergraduate Regulations. The updated version of these regulations is available online. If you ever have questions about the undergraduate regulations, please talk with me.

### *Notes for Sophomores from the Office of Career Strategy*

You can use an online dossier service, such as [Interfolio](#) or [PrivateFolio](#), to request and keep letters of recommendation on file for employers, graduate schools, or fellowships. You should begin to ask your instructors to write letters for this file throughout your time at Yale, so they are ready to send when opportunities arise. For more information about requesting letters of recommendation, visit the [Office of Career Strategy website](#) or talk with an OCS advisor.

Yale College asks all returning students to complete a Summer Activities Survey (it takes less than 5 minutes) so that we can better understand students' paths and expand these opportunities. This information is also used to populate a peer-to-peer summer database through which students can learn from one another about various experiences. This database is password protected and viewable only by the Yale community. Student names and contact information are not included without their consent. So, if you have not already completed this survey, please do so as soon as possible. (Here's the link: <https://yale-csm.symlicity.com/surveys/Summer2024>)

### *Notes for Sophomores on Fellowships, Scholarships, and Grants*

For information about fellowships, scholarships, and grants, consult the [Office of Fellowships website](#). <http://www.yale.edu/yalecollege/international/funding/fellowships/index.html>

## Start-of-Term Dean's Notes for Juniors

### *Important Notes on Course Enrollment*

- The University Registrar's Office has a helpful website devoted to course registration, at [registration.yale.edu](https://registration.yale.edu).
- During the Add/Drop period, you may add courses (if the course is open or you have permission to enroll) and drop courses within Yale Course Search without a fee. The Add/Drop period ends at 5 pm ET on September 10, and the courses listed on your registration worksheet at that time will constitute your fall course schedule. After September 10, you will need my permission to make any changes to your schedule, and the Registrar will charge a \$5 processing fee for each course added or dropped.
- Your "Canvas worksheet" synchronizes with Canvas, and you may load as many as 5 courses onto it. Including a course on your Canvas worksheet grants you "visitor" access to those courses' Canvas sites' "Assignments" and "Announcements" features, and that visitor access will last for the duration of the Add/Drop period.
- Be sure to distinguish your registration worksheet (used to enroll in courses) from your Canvas worksheet (used as a sort of scratch pad). Keep in mind that, to enroll in a course, you **must** include it on your **registration worksheet**.

### *Overloads, Overlaps, Professional School Courses, and Other Petitions*

- You need my permission to enroll for an overload of more than 5.5 course credits and you must have sound academic reasons for doing so. You also need my permission to enroll for an underload of fewer than 3.5 course credits. To request an overload or an underload, make an appointment with me as soon as possible.
- Enrollment in courses that overlap in meeting times is generally not permitted. If you find you **MUST** enroll in two courses that overlap in meeting times, such an overlap may not be more than fifteen minutes for synchronous courses. Overlaps require the permission of both instructors (**even if one of the courses is recorded, and even if you will be missing class time in only one of the two courses**) AND an online petition through my office to the Committee on Honors and Academic Standing. There must be sound academic reasons for such an overlap. For more information on overlaps, including guidelines on overlaps of asynchronous courses, please review the section on Course Enrollment in the [Academic Regulations](#). This petition is due by the end of the Add/Drop Period, and sooner would be prudent.
- No more than four course credits completed under the Credit/D/Fail option — not including the one or two "expiring" course credits you may have taken during your first year at Yale — may be offered toward the bachelor's degree. You may elect no more than two course



credits under the CR/D/Fail option in a term. In each term, a student must elect at least two courses, representing at least two course credits, for letter grades or the mark of Pass, in any combination. The deadline to convert a full-term course from a letter grade to CR/D/Fail mode is the last day of classes, which this fall is December 6. The deadlines for half-term courses are given in the Yale College Calendar with Pertinent Deadlines in the online *Yale College Programs of Study*. These deadlines are strictly enforced.

- There are restrictions on the number of independent study or directed reading courses you may take in any one term and throughout your course of study. See the YCPS for details: <http://catalog.yale.edu/ycps/academic-regulations/course-credits-course-loads/>. Such courses may not be used to fulfill any distributional requirements. Independent study courses, other than senior projects and certain other courses designated for A-F grading by the department offering the course, are graded Pass/Fail. Students may not petition for a conversion from P/F to A-F grading; only the DUS of the department or program offering the course may do so.
- To enroll in one of the Yale professional schools, you will need to submit a request form, [available online](#) at the Registrar's Forms & Petitions site. Enrollment in such courses will not be recorded by the Registrar's Office without this form. Note that not all professional school courses earn credit in Yale College. If the course earns no Yale College credit, it will not appear on your transcript. New for this year: if you wish to enroll in a School of Management course, you must instead go directly to the SOM website. Our office will include the link to the SOM request form in an upcoming newsletter [*Deans: here it is:* [https://som.yale.edu/programs/resources-non-som-students?check\\_logged\\_in=1](https://som.yale.edu/programs/resources-non-som-students?check_logged_in=1)]
- You may not enroll in a graduate or professional school course designated as an independent study, nor may you apply credit earned in a graduate or professional school course to any of the Yale College distributional requirements.
- If you are interested in petitioning to earn double credit in a single-credit course, please [read the relevant section in the YCPS](#), and then consult with me. The deadline to submit this petition is Midterm, but I recommend that you do so well before that date.

### *Academic Benchmarks for Juniors*

- By the end of the sixth term of enrollment you must have **completed** all of your skills requirements, and you must have earned at least one course credit in each of the three disciplinary areas, to be eligible for promotion to senior standing. Students who anticipate special difficulties in meeting the distributional requirements for the junior year should speak to me individually as soon as possible.
- Check on your progress towards fulfillment of requirements for your major, and if you have not declared a major, you need to do so via SIS. If you are thinking about completing two majors, please make an appointment to meet with me.

- Check on your progress towards fulfillment of Distributional Requirements for the Bachelor's Degree: successful completion of no fewer than two course credits in the humanities and arts, two course credits in the sciences, and two course credits in the social sciences. In addition, you must fulfill the skills requirements by successful completion of two course credits in quantitative reasoning, two course credits in writing, and courses to further your language proficiency. No credits earned in courses completed on a Credit/D/Fail basis may be used to fulfill any of the junior year or bachelor's degree distributional requirements, nor may credits earned in independent study, tutorial, directed research, or directed reading courses.
- If you have been awarded at least 4 acceleration credits and have a question about accelerating by means of acceleration credits, please make an appointment to see me.
- By the end of your sixth term of enrollment you must have successfully completed a minimum of 26 course credits to be promoted to senior standing.

### *Advising & Tutoring Resources*

Information on a range of tutoring resources is available on the "Advising Resources" website at <http://advising.yalecollege.yale.edu/>

### *Notes for Juniors from Yale Study Abroad*

If you are planning to take a Junior Term Abroad for spring term 2025, note that the deadline for most programs is October 1.

The deadline to apply for 2025 Yale Summer Session Programs Abroad is February 4, 2025. If you are considering credit for summer study abroad in 2025 with non-Yale programs, you must apply for approval through the [Summer Abroad program](#). The deadline to apply for credit for a Non-Yale Summer Abroad program is March 4, 2025.

### *Fellowships, Scholarships, and Grants*

For information about fellowships, scholarships, and grants, consult the [Office of Fellowships website](#).

### *Undergraduate Regulations*

All Yale College students are governed by, and expected to familiarize themselves with, the Undergraduate Regulations. The updated version of these regulations is available online. If you ever have questions about the undergraduate regulations, please talk with me.

### *Notes for Juniors from the Office of Career Strategy*

You can use an online dossier service, such as [Interfolio](#) or [PrivateFolio](#), to request and keep letters of recommendation on file for employers, graduate schools, or fellowships. You should begin to ask your instructors to write letters for this file throughout your time at Yale, so they are ready to send when opportunities arise. For more information about requesting letters of recommendation, visit the [Office of Career Strategy website](#) or talk with an OCS advisor.

Yale College asks all returning students to complete a Summer Activities Survey (it takes less than 5 minutes) so that we can better understand students' paths and expand these opportunities. This information is also used to populate a peer-to-peer summer database through which students can learn from one another about various experiences. This database is password protected and viewable only by the Yale community. Student names and contact information are not included without their consent. So, if you have not already completed this survey, please do so as soon as possible. (Here's the link: <https://yale-csm.symplicity.com/surveys/Summer2024>)

## Start-of-Term Dean's Notes for Seniors

### *For Fall-Term Completers*

All fall-term completers must file a [Petition to Complete Degree Requirements at the End of a Fall Term](#), which is due by the last day of the Add/Drop period (September 10, 2024).

### *Important Notes on Course Enrollment*

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- No more than four course credits completed under the Credit/D/Fail option — not including the one or two “expiring” course credits you may have taken during your first year at Yale — may be offered toward the bachelor’s degree. You may elect no more than two course credits under the CR/D/Fail option in a term. In each term, a student must elect at least two courses, representing at least two course credits, for letter grades or the mark of Pass, in any combination. The deadline to convert a full-term course from a letter grade to CR/D/Fail mode is the last day of classes, which this fall is December 6. The deadlines for half-term courses are given in the Yale College Calendar with Pertinent Deadlines in the online *Yale College Programs of Study*. These deadlines are strictly enforced.
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- If you are interested in petitioning to earn double credit in a single-credit course, please [read the relevant section in the YCPS](#), and then consult with me. The deadline to submit this petition is Midterm, but I recommend that you do so well before that date.

### ***Academic Benchmarks for Seniors***

- Check carefully on your progress toward fulfillment of the Distributional Requirements for the Bachelor’s Degree; a minimum of two course credits in each disciplinary area (humanities, science, social science), a minimum of two course credits in Quantitative Reasoning and Writing, and completion of the language requirement.

- No courses taken on the Credit/D/Fail basis may be used to fulfill the distribution requirements for the bachelor's degree.
- Check on your progress towards fulfillment of requirements of your major, and pay special attention to the Senior Requirement in your major: it may involve a two-term Senior Essay that must be begun this term or enrollment in a special seminar that meets only in the Fall term.
- By the end of your final term of enrollment you must have successfully completed a **minimum of 36 course credits for the degree.**

### *Undergraduate Regulations*

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### *Notes for Seniors from the Office of Career Strategy*

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### *Other Resources*

- Information on a range of tutoring resources is available on the "Advising Resources" website at <http://advising.yalecollege.yale.edu/>
- For information about fellowships, scholarships, and grants, consult the [Office of Fellowships website](#).



# Yale has a LOT of libraries. Let us show you around!

In addition to residential college libraries, Yale has libraries for science, social science, arts, special collections, music, law, and more.

The challenge: Visit eight library locations by Aug. 30, 2024, to be entered to win an individual study room in Bass Library for fall 2024.

Get a head start by joining a walking tour of five Yale Library locations. Participants will learn about study spaces and collections, and meet librarians who support undergraduate research and learning. Multiple dates and times available.

Register: [guides.library.yale.edu/walkingtour](https://guides.library.yale.edu/walkingtour)

Monday, Aug. 26, 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Tuesday, Aug. 27, 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Wednesday, Aug. 28, 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Thursday, Aug. 29, 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

*Visit 8 library locations  
by August 30 to be  
entered to WIN a Bass  
Library study room!*

## How to participate

A self-guided tour is also available. Pick up a tour booklet in Sterling Memorial or Bass Library between Aug. 18 and Aug. 30. Collect a sticker at each library location you visit to qualify for the prize.



MORE INFO

## *Yale Degree Audit*

Yale Degree Audit is a web-based tool that calculates and displays how an individual student's courses may count toward the requirements for the bachelor's degree. The degree audit enables students to monitor their own progress toward the completion of degree requirements. It also helps students, and their advisers discuss course selection for current and future terms more meaningfully by clarifying what requirements the student still needs to complete. Currently, major requirements are not included in the audit. Log into [Yale Hub](#) to pull up your audit.

Unlike a transcript, your degree audit is an unofficial document provided for your information and convenience. The audit serves as a tool to provide you with helpful and timely information when you are planning your course schedule, discussing your schedule with your adviser, and reviewing your progress toward completing the requirements for the bachelor's degree. Your degree audit is **not** an official academic transcript.

Yale Degree Audit will help you:

- Determine what requirements you need to fulfill in order to complete your bachelor's degree.
- View a list of all courses in which you have enrolled and the distributional designations each course carries.
- View individual course grades and cumulative grade-point average (GPA)