

Academics at Bethel



BETHEL
UNIVERSITY

Of course college is academic. That goes without saying! But one of the great things about Bethel is that there's a wealth of offices and resources dedicated to assisting you in choosing the best courses, thriving in your studies, and setting the stage for post-graduation success. Here's a breakdown of what to consider throughout each year of college.

FRESHMAN YEAR

- During Welcome Week, Academic Connection events and Advising Central can help you select classes to fit your interests.
- Take care of yourself! Use the Wellness Center, stop by Health Services when you need to, get enough sleep, and choose healthy foods. When you feel well, you'll do well!
- Your mental health matters. It's a big change to start college, especially if you're living away from home for the first time. Free confidential counseling services are available on-site if you need someone to talk to.
- Declare a major! It's normal to be unsure when you start college, but give some serious thought to what you might want to study. Bethel supports "exploratory majors" who are not ready to make a decision about their academic program. View your options at bethel.edu/academics.
- Mark Advising Day on your calendar. You'll connect with your advisor and work on your academic plan using the Degree Works interactive software. Revisit your plan often.
- Develop good study habits. Find a favorite study spot and time, and put your learning first.
- Struggling with coursework? Don't hesitate to seek assistance. The Academic Enrichment and Support Center (AESC) offers free tutoring and study sessions.

SOPHOMORE YEAR

- Are you considering changing your major or adding a minor? Check in with your advisor regularly, or use the Advising Center resources at bethel.edu/advising-center to consider your options and adjust accordingly.
- Keep an eye on bethel.edu/events for free presentations from alumni, creative and performing arts events, guest Chapel speakers, job fairs, and more. You never know what will inspire you!
- Do you have a campus job? Try to find one that lines up with your academic interests so you get paid to gain real-world experience. It's a win-win!
- Explore opportunities to study abroad during January Session or a full semester. Cultural awareness is a valuable skill you can bring with you anywhere, and many programs will complement your major.

JUNIOR YEAR

- Take a few minutes to look back on the classes you've taken so far. Which ones have been the most interesting? Are there related research or career opportunities to pursue?
- Apply to graduate, and think seriously about potential career paths. Have you done enough internships or hands-on projects to set you apart?
- What are you doing this summer? Find a job or internship related to your field. Many Bethel students even do paid research alongside their professors! Ask around.

SENIOR YEAR

- Most majors have a capstone project or internship designed to help you bring all of your learning together as you finish. Try to find a topic that truly interests you.
- If graduate school is next, submit your applications. Deadlines come up fast, especially when you're juggling a full course load.