

Spelman Chat FAQ

Q. If I have college credits already, can they be transferred to Spelman? What is the process?

- A. The College will award transfer credit for comparable work in which the student has earned grades of “C” or better, provided that the institution at which the credit was earned is accredited by its regional accrediting agency.

The College’s registrar evaluates the transcripts of incoming transfer students to determine course equivalents for general and divisional requirements. Department chairpersons evaluate transcripts of incoming transfer students to determine course equivalents for departmental requirements.

Students are required to take math and foreign language college placement examinations if they do not transfer credit in those areas.

Q. Should I study for the placement exams?

- A. The only preparation for a placement exam is a good night's sleep and nourishment. Placement exams are designed to test your knowledge in a particular area (i.e., math, foreign language, computer science, etc.). These results will be used by your advisor to help you select courses that are best for your skill level. You cannot fail a placement exam. However, you are encouraged to take the exam seriously and to do your best. For example, a low score on a math placement exam by a science student may slow your progress towards the required math level for your major. More information about the placement exams may be found on the New Student Orientation (NSO) Portal.

Q. How will I choose my classes?

- A. You will be pre-registered for African Diaspora and the World (ADW). You will register for other courses later this summer after meeting with your First-Year advisor during NSO. Your advisor will have your placement test scores and any college credit (i.e., Advanced Placement, IB courses, transfer/dual enrollment courses, etc.) to help you register for your classes. Your advisor will be able to answer additional questions you may have.

Q. How many hours should I take during my first semester?

- A. First-year students are not permitted to register for more than 18 hours (exceptions: dual degree, Education Studies, Music). Full-time enrollment is 12 credit hours, and an optimal course load should be 16 hours. Students who receive scholarships should be registered for at least 16 hours. First-year students can take four academic courses, one wellness class, First-Year Seminar, and First-year Colloquium. Provisionally admitted students should only register for 12-14 credits.

Q. What are the core requirements?

A. The core curriculum is a schedule of classes that all Spelman College students must complete in order to graduate. By emphasizing critical, analytical and problem-solving skills, it is designed to prepare students for the challenges of living in a multicultural and highly technological society. The curriculum spans the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, fine arts, cultural and gender studies. For more information about specific requirements, please refer to the Course Sequence Booklet (link below) for a list of core requirements.

Q. What should I select as a major?

A. Many students arrive at Spelman with career goals and a major declared. You are encouraged to review the list of majors/minors that we offer and explore the department websites to determine possible areas of interest. Meeting with your advisor, department chairs, and faculty members in areas that are of interest is a great way to decide if a major is a good fit with your academic and career goals.

Q. Am I required to have a minor?

A. No, a student is only required to complete a major, core and divisional requirements and the number of designated major and/or general electives. If a student begins a minor, but is not able to complete it, they will still be eligible for graduation provided they have earned a minimum of 120 credit hours representing the core and divisional requirements and satisfied all requirements for the major.

Q. How is the grade point average computed?

A. The grade point average is computed by dividing the total number of hours attempted into the total number of quality points earned.

Q. How can I get on the Honor Roll?

A. A student must earn minimum of 15 semester credits in college level courses and attain a cumulative G.P.A of 3.3 or higher. The student may not have any grade lower than a "C" and no withdrawals from courses. Dean's List status requires that a student must earn minimum of 15 semester credits in college level courses and attain a cumulative G.P.A of 3.6 or higher. The student may not have any grade lower than a "C" and no withdrawals from courses.

Q. How many credits are needed to become a sophomore?

A. A student will need 30 semester credits with a cumulative grade point average of 1.80 to advance to sophomore status.

Q. Can I take classes at Morehouse, Clark-Atlanta or other schools in the Atlanta University Center (AUC)?

A. Students are permitted to take courses throughout the Atlanta University Center. To take a course within one's major, a student must be approved by the department chairperson. If a course is offered on Spelman's campus, that course should be taken at Spelman. First-year students are required to receive permission from their department chair or an academic dean to take classes at other AUC schools.

Q. Can I take classes at Emory or Georgia State University or other colleges in Atlanta?

A. Through the Atlanta Regional Consortium for Higher Education (ARCHE), Spelman students may enroll in classes at a consortium of 20 public and private institutions of higher learning in the Atlanta-Athens area (including Emory, and GSU). For more information, contact the Office of the Registrar.

Q. Can I attend summer school at another institution?

A. Spelman offers a number of online classes during the summer and you are encouraged to review those offerings. A student may attend summer school at other institutions. Approval must be obtained from the chair of the appropriate department before a student takes the class in summer school and complete the Off Campus Approval Form.

RESOURCES TO REVIEW

Majors, Minors & Programs

<https://www.spelman.edu/academics/majors-minors-and-programs>

Course Sequence Booklet

The course sequences have been prepared as a guide for students in planning a program of study for the various majors at the College. Students should always consult with their academic advisor and Department Chairperson when planning their course of study.

<https://www.spelman.edu/docs/ous/course-sequence-booklet.pdf>

Outside Scholarships

List of external sources for college funding and helpful tips for securing financial support.

<https://www.spelman.edu/admissions/financial-aid/scholarships/outside-scholarships>