

Top 10 Questions of HOD First-Year Students

1) What does “hours” mean? How many classes should I take?

The credit hour is a unit of measure for college credit. Hours refers to the amount of credit you receive for any given course. If a course is a 3 credit course, it generally meets for 3 hours of class time during the week for the entire semester. If you pass the course, you will have earned 3 hours of credit towards your degree. Most lecture courses are 3 hours of credit and most lab science courses are 4 hours of credit (3 hours of credit for the lecture and 1 hour of credit for the lab).

To receive a Vanderbilt degree with HOD major as your first major, you must earn a minimum of 120 hours. 120 hours divided by 8 semesters equals 15 hours per semester. So, in theory, if you average 15 hours per semester, you should earn 120 credit hours by the end of your 8th semester or 4th year. You should plan on taking somewhere between 14 and 17 hours each semester. You will be spending more time studying on your own, and less time actually sitting in class, than you did in high school. Of course, you must also enroll and pass the required courses for the major! While you are choosing courses to meet HOD requirements, you also need to keep an eye on the bottom line. Any AP / IB credit that you have earned will count towards the 120 hours required to graduate. If you have AP / IB credit, you may be able to lessen your course load some semesters.

2) All of these choices are overwhelming! How do I start putting my fall schedule request together?

The required fall courses for first-year HOD majors are HOD 1000 01, HOD 1001 and PSY-PC 1630. As a HOD major, you will be automatically enrolled in HOD 1000 01 and HOD 1001. You should first add a section of PSY-PC 1630. After you’ve selected a time for PSY-PC 1630, you’re ready to choose 2 to 3 additional courses. Review the suggested schedule on page 35 of your *HOD Undergraduate Handbook*. Check your *HOD Undergraduate Handbook* to see if you are exempt from the math requirement and/or the English 100 requirement (also listed below). If you are required to take English 100, be sure to put it on your fall schedule. Then think about getting started on your Liberal Education Core requirements. It is a good idea to take math if you are not exempt, and perhaps even if you are exempt. If you are considering economics as a 2nd major or minor, refer to question #7 below for math recommendations. If you consider yourself to be pre-med, refer to question #10. One of your Liberal Education Core courses in your first year should ordinarily be a writing course and another should be philosophy, but either or both could be postponed to spring, particularly if you want to get started on a full-year science course. In general, your HOD Liberal Ed Core courses should be completed by the end of your 4th or 5th semester.

3) Am I required to take English 100?

English 100 is required unless you have satisfied one of the following:

1. SAT I Critical Reading and Writing combined test score of 1220 or above with a minimum test score of 500 in each component
2. ACT English test score of 27 or above and an ACT writing test score of 7 or above
3. AP / IB English test scores of 4 and 6 respectively

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If you do not satisfy one of the above, then you must register for English 100 for the fall semester.

4) Am I required to take a math course?

HOD majors are required to take one math course and one statistics course. Students will be exempt from the 3 hour math requirement by scoring a 620 or higher on the SAT Math Subject Test Level 1 or 570 or higher on the SAT Math Subject Test Level 2. Academic credit is not awarded for SAT Subject Tests. Students with SAT Math exemption should take 3 additional elective Liberal Education Core hours.

Students may receive math credit for AP or IB test depending on the score(s) received. Refer to pages 14 and 15 of your *HOD Undergraduate Handbook*. Students who score 4 or 5 on the AP statistics test receive credit for Math 127A. Math 127A **DOES NOT FULFILL** the statistics requirement for the HOD major. All HOD majors must take a statistics course. Choices are PSY-PC 2101, ECON 150 or PSY-AS 209. ECON 150 and PSY-AS 209 have prerequisites which you can view on YES.

5) Where should I have my AP/IB test scores sent?

AP / IB test scores should be sent directly to Vanderbilt University Office of Undergraduate Admissions from the testing agency prior to your first semester of enrollment to obtain credit.

6) I have not received the scores for my AP/IB tests yet. How do I know which courses to request?

You may have taken AP tests in your sophomore or junior year and already know those test results. You can look on pages 14 and 15 of your *HOD Undergraduate Handbook* to see the exact Vanderbilt course credit you will earn. AP / IB tests results for tests taken in May will not be available until July. If you feel that you are likely to receive AP / IB credit, then you can choose to register for other courses. When YES reopens in July, you can adjust your schedule accordingly. Some students prefer to register for a course and then drop the course if they received a high enough score to receive credit.

7) I am planning on either a double major or a minor in economics and the information for economics majors/minors states that one semester of calculus is required. Will Math 140, Survey of Calculus, prepare me adequately for the economics courses I will eventually take or is Math 150A/155A a better choice?

Although Math 140 meets the minimum requirements, Malcolm Getz, the Director of Undergraduate Studies for Economics, recommends Math 150A. "It [Math 150A] is a three credit course than more easily allows going on to 150B should you choose to do so...We find that students who complete two semesters of calculus on average earn whole letter grade higher grade in 231 (A rather than B). The amount of calculus used in upper level electives differs from course to course and instructor to instructor. More [economic] electives will be open to you with more math."

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- 8) I'm not clear about the nutrition courses, Nursing 231A and B (NURS 231A, NURS 231B). Can I take the courses at the same time?**

NURS 231A (2 credit hours) plus NURS 231B (1 credit hour) can be taken the same semester and will fulfill the 3 hour non-lab science requirement. Some students choose to take NURS 231A one semester and NURS 231B a subsequent semester and that is fine also.

- 9) I'm not really a morning person. Can I take HOD 1000 02, the section that is in the afternoon? Also, am I required to take HOD 1001?**

No, you cannot take HOD 1000 02. HOD 1000 01 is reserved for HOD incoming freshmen and HOD 1000 02 is for students who are considering transferring to the HOD major or students who have officially transferred to the HOD major. All first-year HOD majors are required to take HOD 1001. HOD 1000 and 1001 will already be listed on your fall schedule on YES.

- 10) I am pre-med. What courses do I need to take?**

Generally, the minimum required courses for consideration to medical school include the following courses: 2 semesters of English, 2 semesters of biology, 2 semesters of general inorganic chemistry, 2 semesters of organic chemistry, and 2 semesters of physics. All of the sciences should be taken with the appropriate labs and recitations.

In addition to the required HOD courses (HOD 1000, 1001 and PSY-PC 1630), most HOD majors will start out with general chemistry (Chemistry 102a, 104a and 106a) and then add 2 additional courses that will go towards the HOD Liberal Education Core. You might consider adding an English course and a math course. I also strongly suggest that sometime early in the fall that you contact or drop by the Health Professions Advisory Office and talk to someone there about the suggested course sequence for the science courses and how HPAO advising works. You could even contact that office now if you'd like. The office number is (615) 322-2446.

Here are some good websites to check out:

Health Professions Advisory Office

<http://www.vanderbilt.edu/hpao/index.php>

Premedical Advising Program at VU

http://www.vanderbilt.edu/hpao/index_premed_advising.php

Course equivalents at VU

http://www.vanderbilt.edu/hpao/index_requirements.php

VU School of Medicine required courses

<https://medschool.vanderbilt.edu/admissions/admission-requirements#required>