

Advising Services

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New Year's Resolutions of a Successful Student in 2012

Many people resolve to make healthy and productive changes in their life at the beginning of a new year. Here are some suggestions for possible resolutions for a year of academic success:

- ◆ I resolve to be further along on my academic and career goals at the end of 2012. I will post my goals in a prominent place to continually remind myself what I am working towards.
- ◆ I resolve to study 2-3 hours per week for every credit hour I am registered for.
- ◆ I resolve to let someone know if I'm having difficulty in my classes. I will talk with my instructor, see an academic advisor to discuss ways to improve my performance, and seek tutoring options.
- ◆ I resolve to make class attendance a priority and will attempt to arrive promptly and prepared for each session.
- ◆ I resolve to get connected to my college community. I will attempt to get to know classmates, instructors, and college employees. I will get involved in student activities and pursue leadership opportunities.
- ◆ I resolve to make healthy lifestyle changes which will improve my energy, attention and performance as a student; e.g., sleep 7-8 hours a night and exercise.
- ◆ I resolve to be informed about the Switch to Semesters. I will meet with my academic or faculty advisor before March 1, 2012.



The CSCC to OSU Preferred Pathway Program is evolving for students and P3 Scholars! The program website (<http://www2.cscce.edu/academics/pathway/>) has been restructured to include easily accessible information such as program benefits, eligibility and application details, along with frequently asked questions for current and future students, P3 Scholars, parents and guidance counselors.

Preferred Pathway Program – Current Students

Current students who plan on transferring to OSU now have an expanding list of pre-major tracks that have been approved by faculty at both institutions. These pre-majors identify the pathway (courses) CSCC students should take here, that will lead to their desired major at OSU. The approved list of pre-major tracks now includes 2+2 guides for Psychology, English, Film Studies, International Studies, Linguistics, Philosophy, Spanish, Geography, Mathematics, and Public Affairs.

Preferred Pathway Program – Future Student

Future students are encouraged to attend a Preferred Pathway Program Information Session. The sessions for Autumn 2012 Semester began in November of 2011. Approximately 80 interested students and parents have already attended sessions at the Delaware Campus and the new Gahanna Clark Hall Center. Just as many respondents have reserved a seat for the upcoming sessions at the Downtown Campus on January 19 (6:30 – 8:00 p.m.) and January 21 (10:00 – 11:30 a.m.). The information sessions are a 90 minute overview of the program, explanation of sample academic plans, and next steps for participation. More information about the information sessions can be found online at <http://www2.cscce.edu/about/news-press/2011/Pathway-InfoSessions.shtml>.

Preferred Pathway Program - Scholars (P3 Scholars)

P3 Scholars are a select group of students participating in the Preferred Pathway Program. During Autumn 2011, P3 Scholars were actively involved at CSCC and OSU by attending transfer and major fairs, guest speaker events, and student success workshops. Representatives from the scholars group volunteered and attended the *Above the Expected, Beyond Leadership* conference sponsored by the Student Ambassadors. P3 Scholars also showcased their commitment to academic excellence achieving Dean's List recognition; several P3 Scholars earned 4.0 GPAs in their first quarter!

The next P3 Scholars cohort will begin in Autumn 2012. The P3 Scholar application is currently available online. Interested students are encouraged to complete the admissions steps above before March 1, 2012 for priority processing to determine a decision before Autumn 2012 registration begins.

Inquires can be sent to preferredpathway@cscce.edu. You may also contact *Mary Bond*, Advisor at 287-5650 or *Sharmaine Pechac*, Coordinator at 287-5790.

IMPORTANT DATES

Jan 13	Petition to Graduate Winter 2012 due 4:30PM
Jan 30	Spring 2012 Registration Begins & Readmission Deadline for Academic Dismissal/ Academic Review Spring 2012
Feb 13	Summer 2012 Registration Begins
Feb 16	Last Day to Drop Classes Winter 2012

Should I Drop a Class?

By **Amanda Koch**, Academic Advisor

Sometimes as students we find ourselves in a position where we are seriously considering dropping a class or classes. Life throws us a challenge and the way to overcome it might be to reduce our work load at school. This seems like a simple process; just log into Cougar Web and drop the classes with a few clicks of the mouse. Dropping these classes provides us with a couple of benefits: it prevents a poor grade from affecting our GPA and it reduces the stress required to struggle to keep up in class. However, students beware! Dropping classes can have unforeseen consequences that may negatively affect you. Here's what to look out for and consider before clicking away in Cougar Web.

Academics: Dropping classes can be a catch 22 for students on probation. If this is you, you have 24 credit hours in which to work yourself back into good academic standing. Dropping classes definitely protects your GPA if you expect to earn a poor grade. However, a dropped class that earns a "W," will count against your 24 credits, leaving you with fewer credits before dismissal.

Financial Aid: There are a host of potential consequences for dropping classes if you receive federal financial aid (grants and loans). Two major issues to consider are Student Academic Progress (SAP) and Return to Title IV.

SAP requires you to complete 66.66% of the courses you attempt. Financial Aid calls this a completion rate. If you fail a class or drop a class and earn a "W," you are negatively affecting this completion rate. If you fall below this rate, the federal government will withhold your grant and loan money until you have either earned your way back above 66.66% by taking classes you paid for on your own or by submitting a successful appeal. To remain eligible to receive your aid money, stay above 66.66% completion.

Return to Title IV asks you to "earn" your financial aid money by going to class. This is kind of like going to work and earning a paycheck with the exception that the financial aid money is given to you before the quarter is actually completed. If you drop classes, the government has the ability to ask for the federal aid money back (you didn't earn all your aid money). This can happen whether you spent all the aid money or not. This can become a serious issue if you received federal loans and drop below 6 credit hours or if you drop all your classes (loan and grant recipients). You could end up owing a large sum of money back to the college who then returns it to Uncle Sam.

The best decision about dropping classes is an informed decision. The best way to make an informed decision is to speak with your academic advisor AND a financial aid representative BEFORE you act.

Financial Aid: What Happens to Eligibility for Repeated Courses?

The Department of Education has recently published new regulations which impact financial aid students who repeat courses. Beginning July 1, 2011, **students may only receive federal financial aid funding for one repetition of a previously passed course.** All courses attempted at CSCC are included in this regulation including courses previously attempted and paid with non-federal aid funds. Examples of repeated coursework that may, or may not, count for financial aid eligibility:

- **Allowable:** Repeated coursework may be included if the student received an unsatisfactory or failing grade. There is no limit on the number of attempts allowable if the student does not receive a passing grade.
- **Allowable:** Student is enrolled in 15 credit hours which includes 3 credits repeating a previously passed course. Because the student is enrolled in a minimum of 12 credits which are not repeats, the student's financial aid eligibility is not impacted by the repeat.
- **Not allowable:** Student receives a D in a course and decides to repeat the course to improve his/her GPA. The student may repeat this passed course one time, but if the student wants to repeat it a second time, the second repeat would not count for financial aid eligibility.

In this example, the student is enrolled in 12 credits, including the 3 credit second repeat, so only 9 credits will count for financial aid eligibility.

All repeated courses do affect financial aid satisfactory academic progress calculations. A repeated course along with the original attempt must be counted as attempted credits.

Advising Contacts

For quick questions or to point you in the right direction, please feel free to contact us:

By Phone: (614) 287-2668
Mon.-Thurs. 10am to 6pm,
Fri. 10am to 3pm

By E-Mail: transfer@cscce.edu if you are an Associate of Arts/ Associate of Science transfer, transient or undecided student

techadv@cscce.edu if you are a Business/Engineering career and technical student

hhps@cscce.edu if you are a Health, Human, and Public Services career and technical student