Global Study Program Course Registration Process Information

Selecting and registering for courses is one of the most exciting aspects of a study abroad experience. You will have the opportunity to take courses in your own major area, as well as to explore subjects that may not be offered at your home university. Selecting courses can also be challenging, as the process will be different than what you are used to.

We have prepared the following list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about course registration to help you with your planning. Approximately 5 weeks before the quarter begins you will receive detailed instructions on how to register for courses. Course registration will take place approximately 3 weeks before the quarter begins.

1. Where can I see what courses are offered at UC Davis?

2. Help! I don’t see my major in the Course Catalog. What should I do?
   a. Perhaps your major has a different name at UC Davis. Review each department carefully to see if there is a close match in coursework. For example, UC Davis does not offer a “Business” major. It does, however, teach courses in “Economics” and “Agricultural and Resource Economics” that are very similar to Business courses.
   b. Some majors may not be offered at UC Davis. Students who are majoring in Physical Education, Law, Hotel Management and Home Economics, for example, will need to explore other departments at Davis.
   c. If you cannot find a closely-related major, contact globalstudy@ucdavis.edu for assistance.

3. Will I be able to take courses in my major at UC Davis?
   a. GSP students have taken courses in over 90% of UC Davis departments. Most likely you will be able to take major-related coursework.
   b. GSP CANNOT guarantee that students will be able to take desired courses, even if they are required for a student’s graduation.
   c. Please remember to be very flexible when planning your courses. At UC Davis, one subject may be taught in multiple departments. For example, English majors may take courses in the English, Comparative Literature and Linguistics departments.

4. Are any subjects or majors very popular?
   a. The following subjects are very popular and often have full classrooms – Art, Design, Communications, Economics/Business, Film Studies and Physical Education. If you are majoring in these subjects, please carefully consider your schedule and consult with a Global Study Program advisor to see if you will be able to take these types of courses.
   b. Other certain courses may be very popular as well. If you are unable to take the class you wanted, we will work with you to identify other options.

5. Will I need to take any special exams?
   a. In order to take courses in certain departments students will need to complete an advanced writing examination, called the Subject A Exam. The exam will be administered during orientation week and you will receive more information about it soon. Students must pass this exam in order to take courses in Communications, English, Comparative Literature and several other departments. This is a difficult exam, and very few students are able to
pass. There are also Math and Chemistry exams that must be taken for certain classes within those departments. Please note that some music classes also require an audition.

6. Can I register for Graduate-level courses?
   a. Graduate classes are typically restricted to students who are pursuing a graduate degree at Davis. GSP students are able to take graduate courses IF they receive permission from the professor who is teaching the course and permission from the Global Study Program Director. Please remember that coursework in general at UC Davis is very difficult. About 50% of GSP students believe it is more difficult than what they are used to at their home university. Graduate level courses are particularly challenging.

7. How many classes will I take?
   a. Most students take approximately 3 courses for a total of 12 or 13 units. The number of units varies by English proficiency level.

8. Can you help me understand the general catalog?
   a. Please review the graphic below:

   ![How to read the general catalog](https://ucdavis.pubs.curricunet.com/Preview/1/)
   
   Here is a sample course description along with an explanation

   **Economics (ECN)**

   **100. Intermediate Micro Theory (4)**
   
   Lecture—3 hours; discussion—1 hour. Prerequisite: course 1A, 1B; Mathematics 16A-16B or 21A-21B with grade of C- or better in each. Price and distribution theory under conditions of perfect and imperfect competition. General equilibrium and welfare economics. Not open for credit to students who have completed Agricultural and Resource Economics 100A or 100B.—I, II, III. (I, II, III.)

   Note the following about the course: It will have a lecture (large classroom) for 3 hours and discussion (small group conversational style) for 1 hour every week. It has pre-requisites that must be taken before enrolling in this course. If you have not completed the equivalent of Economics 1A, 1B, Math 16A and 16B (or 21A and 21B), you may not take this course. The roman numerals (I, II, III) indicate this course is taught during the Fall (I), Winter (II), and Spring (III) quarters (Subject to change).

   b. Watch this video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kRlp4E5VeQM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kRlp4E5VeQM)

9. What is a "pre-requisite" course? I keep seeing this word in the general catalog.
   a. A pre-requisite course is a course you are required to take before taking another course. For example, if you want to take the course “Spanish 2" at UC Davis, you must have taken “Spanish 1" first. Spanish 1 is beginning, basic Spanish, and if you have not learned this material you would not be able to do well in Spanish 2.

   b. Usually a pre-requisite class has to be taken and completed with a passing grade before you can take a certain class. In some cases the class description may say “concurrent" enrollment is ok. Concurrent means at the same time, so you would be able to take the class and its pre-requisite course together.

   c. Remember, you must pay close attention to the pre-requisites for courses. When you choose your courses later in the term, you will be asked to show how you have satisfied the pre-requisites for the courses you would like to take.