

Frequently Asked Questions

ACADEMIC SUCCESS

What supports does the Office of Academic Success provide?

The Office of Academic Success coordinates New Student Advising, campus-wide tutoring services, and general learning supports for all students. Eighty percent of our days are spent working individually with students, helping them strategize their efforts to maximize outcomes. Many new students set weekly appointments, much like a class for 30-minutes once each week (ex: every Tuesday at 1:00 p.m.).

How do I select my fall classes?

It is important for all new students to complete the Academic Interest Survey on your student portal prior to May 15th whenever possible. Faculty have reviewed your academic profile and have made placement recommendations to the Office of Academic Success. The Director of Academic Success will then register you in your fall classes based on your responses to the Academic Interest Survey, recommendations of faculty, and selected programs in which you have pre-registered such as Wilson Leadership Fellows, Honors, Living and Learning Communities, and athletics.

Can I make changes to my fall schedule?

New students will have an opportunity to make changes to their schedule during the Summer Orientation sessions in June with the assistance of an academic advisor, as well as during New Student Orientation with your academic advisor in late August if necessary.

How can I receive credits for my dual enrollment, IB, and/or AP classes?

To receive credits at H-SC, we must receive an official transcript from the credit granting institution—this is NOT your high school transcript. Dual Enrollment requires an official transcript from your local community college or 4-year institution; AP credits require official notification from the *CollegeBoard.org*; and International Baccalaureate (IB) credits from *IBO.org*. Prior to August these scores should be sent to H-SC Admissions, but after August 1st, these documents should be sent to the H-SC Registrar, PO Box 668, Hampden Sydney, VA 23943 or ctoone@hsc.edu.

What is Tiger Web?

Tiger Web is H-SC's password protected portal for current students to access your academic information (schedules and final grades), financial aid (student accounts), and student life information particular to YOU. The Office of Academic

Success will mail your Tiger Web username and password information on June 24th if you do not attend Summer Orientation. The quick link for Tiger Web can be found on the H-SC website, select Current Students, and Tiger Web is the very first quick link adjacent to E-mail and Canvas.

Do all students have to take a foreign language right away?

Students are highly encouraged to begin their foreign language study in their first term with the College, to prevent the loss of language acquisition from high school. However, if you have been recommended to begin at the 101 level of a foreign language, you can begin your study no later than the fall semester of your sophomore year.

What if I think my foreign language level is too high or too low?

It is important to challenge yourself appropriately when studying a foreign language. If you have had several years of language preparation, starting over at the 101 level often results in the grade of a C rather than the eagerly anticipated A. Our faculty wish to challenge you, but not overwhelm you with your language placement. As such, they carefully review your high school transcripts when making this placement recommendation. However, this placement process is not an exact science as there are multiple factors which can impact a student's recall of a foreign language. If you believe your placement is either too high or too low based on your high school preparation, you should inquire about the Modern Language Placement Test (an online assessment) which can provide us with an additional data point for placement. Contact the Office of Academic Success for the access information for the placement exam.

When should I order my textbooks?

Some upperclassmen will tell you to wait to order textbooks until the middle of the first week of classes. I disagree. I recommend ensuring your schedule is set before arriving for New Student Orientation in August, then follow the directions within Tiger Web on how to order textbooks—located in Useful Links under the STUDENT tab. In the event that you ordered the wrong books or plan on changing your schedule-- SAVE YOUR RECEIPTS from your purchases and do not open materials which are shrink-wrapped until you are sure you are keeping the class. It is better to have MOST of your books as faculty will assign work during the first week of class, especially in Economics. If you delay in ordering books, it can negatively impact your grades.

What does FERPA mean?

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act simply put, protects your educational information once you matriculate to the College even if you are still under 18. Information which was previously accessible to your parents, such as your schedule and grades, is now solely your information. The College faculty and staff are not permitted to share this information with your parents without a signed release of information form by you. Even college personnel without a legitimate educational need to know cannot have access to your educational record. As adulthood does not happen overnight, we strongly encourage you to keep your communication transparent with your guardians. Yes, you are encouraged to take steps towards your independence, but receiving guidance from your biggest supporters remains an essential part of your continuing development. Contact Ms. Burns in the Office of Academic Success for more information.

What is Canvas?

Canvas is a learning management system where your faculty can post essential course information. This often includes the course syllabus, additional readings, assignment prompts, discussion boards, and sometimes unofficial grades. Grades within Canvas are always a work in progress and are not your official course grade. Official course grades are posted at the end of the term and can be accessed in Tiger Web. Canvas can be accessed on the Current Students portal page from the H-SC website by entering the same username and password as your H-SC e-mail account.

When will I receive access codes for Tiger Web, Canvas and my H-SC e-mail accounts?

Students who attend the one-day summer orientation sessions will receive their login information to Tiger Web during their advising session. Students not attending the summer orientations will have their Tiger Web login information mailed to them on June 24th. Once a student has his Tiger Web login information, he can enter his account to obtain his H-SC e-mail address and password. After logging into Tiger Web, select the HOME tab on the navigation bar. E-mail Password Retrieval will then be accessible in the left-hand navigation panel. Follow the directions within the body of text. Have your phones ready to take a picture of the access information so that you have this information at your fingertips. The access codes for a student's H-SC e-mail and Canvas accounts are the same.

Where can I find a copy of Hampden Sydney's Core Curriculum?

A copy of the Core Curriculum will be mailed to you by your academic advisor in early June, but you can also find a quick reference checklist on the Current Students webpage. Scroll down to Academics, select the drop menu and then Major and Minor Checklists. A PDF version of the checklist is available in the resource list at the top of the page: <http://www.hsc.edu/academics/academic-services/academic-success/major-and-minor-checklists>. The Academic Catalog (pp. 8-9) also contains the requirements of the Core Curriculum.