Questions focused on Registration

1. Where do you look for information about courses?
2. Who do you talk to about registration?
3. What information about a course makes you want to take it?
4. What do you find most helpful in a course description?
5. Do you ever look for reviews for courses? If so, where?
   1. washU reviews
      1. What information do you find most helpful?
      2. Why do you choose this?
   2. Rate my professor
      1. Why do you go there?
6. Why do you take certain classes?
   1. People/friends in the class
      1. How do you know who is planning on taking the course?
   2. like the Professor
      1. Do you take classes by the same professor often?
      2. Do you take recommendations from other students about professors?
   3. Requirement
      1. Where do you find the information about these requirements?
7. Do you get course recommendations from anyone? Who?

Question routine:

What is your name?

What is your school/major?

What year are you?

What do you consider when choosing courses for the next semester?

\*probably good place for follow up question here\*

What information about a course makes you interested in taking it?

Do you talk to anyone about registration?

How far ahead do you plan out your courses?

Do you ask for course recommendations from other people? How heavily do you follow their advice?

Interview transcript 1

Hi Nick! Thank you for sparing a moment for me for a short interview!

You’re welcome.

So, let’s start with the basics.

**What is your school and major?**

Arts n’ science and economics

**And what year are you?**

Just became sophomore this fall

Okay good. Now I’m gonna ask some questions about registration.

**What do you consider when choosing courses for the next semester? Tell me about your planning process?**

I will check if some required foundation courses are offered, if some major related courses sound interesting, and probably who is teaching for what classes.

**\*Follow up\***

· **Other things that you don’t take into consideration right now? Which might be very important? I wonder if you care about the class schedules?**

I’d say I’m not really worried about what time slot the courses are as long as I can fit them into my schedule. I try not to sign up for classes that are super early, but if it is mandatory/interesting I don’t really mind getting up early.

· **If you can check with future offering, would you be interested in holding back and wait till next offering in a later time slot?**

Well I don’t really know. Maybe I will. But if I have to take that class for the prerequisite for other interesting classes I’m most likely to take it as early as possible.

**What information about a non mandatory course makes you interested in taking it?**

If the course is not mandatory, I will definitely check out the topics it will cover by maybe asking friends who is currently taking or check out previous course page online if there is any.

· **One typical question for your friend?**

Something like, do you like that class?

· **Do you know that there is a thing called previous syllabus on webstac registration**

Well yeah I do, I surely read some of them. I mostly start by just skim through the courses description that has a very basic outlines of the topics covered and if I’m interested I will also check out more information.

· **Such as?**

Like if the class is hard? I will try to find how many homework I have to do for that class. I will ask if my friends want to take the same class with me.

**Do you talk to anyone about registration?**

Definitely. Just as I said I will ask my friends if they are planning to sign up for any courses that I would like to sign up. I definitely is more into going to classes with friends. My group project experience last semester was horrible so I want somebody reliable if there is going to be any more teamwork.

Well I would totally agree with you.

**How far ahead do you plan out your courses?**

Hmm not very far I would think so. I check out the graduation requirements, major requirements and all other requirements and have a list of courses I have to take. But I don’t know if they are offered next semester unless the courses are up on the webstac. Most of the time I pick up some must take classes and fill up the gaps with courses that are interesting to me.

**Do you ask for course recommendations from other people? How heavily do you follow their advice?**

I do, usually sometime around registration opens for us. I will exchange courses with friends and ask for filler classes. I try to avoid professors with bad reputation.

· **How do you check out the professor’s reputation?**

I use ratemyprofessor.com but if my friends had bad experience I tend to be on my friends side and mark the classes less desirable.

· **So did you do the course evaluation at the end of the semester?**

Yes I did. I wrote so many thing and I wish they will be read and considered.

· **So are you okay with part of your course evaluation feedback being shared? Or like used to build up a systematic rating that everybody can see?**

I wouldn’t mind. Know about how everybody is thinking of a professors’ class is very helpful in choosing classes. Also the professor is more pressured to improve as well if the information is semi public, like my name should not appear anywhere.

Gotcha. So that’s all my questions. Thank you so much!

You’re welcome.

Interview transcript 2

**What is your name?**

Sam Ghetz

**What year are you?**

Senior

**What is your major?**

I’m double majoring in global health of the environment and biology

**When you had to consider what courses you wanted to take, what is your main motivation?**

Since I was double majoring I definitely had to look at my requirements. Usually I would assume I would have to take 2 classes for bio and 2 classes for anthro. After that I would just look for fun classes to take.

**So at this point you’re mostly electives as opposed to a more rigid schedule?**

Yeah, at this point it’s pretty much electives.

**When you are looking at courses, what do you look for?**

Since a lot of my classes are bigger, I like to look for smaller classes. I try to do something completely different. I don’t know if there is really anything else.

**Do teachers play a role in what classes you pick? Do you read the course descriptions?**

Yeah. I definitely read the course description and for a while it was about trying to pick interesting humanities courses since that’s what I needed for my distribution requirement. I guess I would also look up the teacher to make sure they were good, since this was my ‘for fun’ class I didn’t want to have a bad professor.

**What do you use to look up your teachers?**

Rate my professor.

**Do you ever ask around to other people about what classes they’d recommend or what professors they’d recommend?**

Sometimes. A lot of my friends are majoring in the same thing so it’s not super helpful..

**How far ahead do you have your course load worked out?**

I had a piece of paper where I mapped out how many classes I would have to take for each of my majors. I wrote down where the requirements would fit in. Other than that not really, I just had a framework for what I would need.

Interview transcript 3

**What is your name?**  
  
Ruth

**What year are you?**

I’m a junior

**What major?**

Education studies and sociology

**When you’re picking courses for next semester, what in particular do you look at when you pick them?**

I think about scheduling, for ed studies the 400 level classes are all 3 hour blocks, and they’re only one time a week so I think about spreading those out. I think about whether I want classes on Friday, and that can be a yes or no depending on semester. I think about the professors, I think about the time. If there’s a syllabus I look at that to see what the time commitment is going to be.

**When you think about professors, do you ask other people about what classes or professors they’d recommend?**

Since I am double majoring, there’s some I have to do. I do look at Rate my Professor and I look outside the sociology department. Sometimes my professors will recommend classes with other people in the department.

**So you look at course description, time, do you look at older course reviews online?**

I try to. Sociology is a new department with virtually no background. I think it was a minor but it’s still so new. With ed, ed is such a small department that it’s also difficult to get background, so a lot of my information comes from word of mouth from other students or professors.

**How far ahead have you planned out your courses?**

I use the ANS planet thing, do you know about that?

**Uh, no I don’t think so.**

It’s on WebSTAC! Yeah, it’s just a ArtSci thing, some other people don’t have it. It shows you what IQs you need, your MSNs, your humanities. I’ve used it to plan out my humanities, although I haven’t used it to plan out my major. I’ve used it to make sure my IQs are fulfilled and to make sure my other credits are fulfilled.

Interview transcript 4

**What’s your name?**

Darron

**What year and what’s your major?**

I am a first-year and I am thoroughly undecided

**When you were choosing classes for this semester, what process did you go through?**

I went to SOAR (sp?) and that was a big help, but as for chooses what classes I wanted, I just read the whole course catalog they sent me in the mail. I was very confused, so I just kinda chose what I thought was interesting out of there.

**When you looked at those, what in particular attracted you to the classes?**

I looked at the departments first, I’m interested in psychology not in calculus. I narrowed down what departments I wanted to go into first and then looked at the intro classes in each of those and went from there.

**Did you talk to anyone, any friends about what they were taking here?**

I know a few people who are here who are sophomores, so I talked to them about what they had heard. Other than that I didn’t use that “rate my professor” site, I didn’t even know that was a thing until I was here.

**Have you started planning for next semester?**

Noo.. I’m going to that major/minor fair thing next Monday so I’m hoping that is helpful because I still don’t have any idea.

**Have you looked at any longer term plans, like what some degrees require for future semesters?**

I’ve started looking at IAS which seems nice, it seems pretty open ended. I went in thinking I was PNP which was something helped me choose what I was going to take the first semester, but then it’s now out the window. As far as long term plans, I don’t know what I’m majoring in, I’m very stressed about it.

Interview transcript 5

**What is your year and major?**

I’m a sophomore and I’m a declared PNP but who knows.

**When you pick courses for upcoming semesters, what do you look for?**

I mostly talk to my friends about what they liked and what they haven’t liked.

**Do you look alot at what the university recommends for your major?**

I try to take at least 1 or 2 that I have to, but mainly I go with what’s interesting.

**So you sorta answered this already, but you ask your friends for advice a lot, but about the course or the professor or what specifically?**

Both. A lot of times my friends have taken the course but with a different professor, which makes it hard because I think the professor really makes the course. The courses often sound really interesting, but so many of them the professor just lectures or something. The material can be so good but… ugh.

**A lot of people talk about Rate my Professor, do you look at that at all?**

I looked at it, but I feel like it’s so old and you only go on it if you loved or hated it so it’s not very accurate.

**So mostly just word of mouth?**

Yeah, yeah.

**How long ahead do you typically plan your classes out?**

I have some ideas, but I get nervous about that so I go to my advisor, she’s really helpful.

Interview transcript 6

**What’s your year and major?**  
  
I’m a junior studying psychology

**When you’re registering for courses for upcoming semesters, what do you look for in a class?**

Normally checking that I have all of the pre-reqs, then I try to focus on psych courses for my major, and then after that I try to enroll in some humanities.

**What aspect of the course do you pay the most attention to, the professor or the course description for example?**

I’ll look at the professor only after I’ve decided that I’m going to take that class. I honestly never look at the descriptions.

**Do you ask other people for advice on courses?**

With psych classes I usually ask my friends for which ones are easier so I can try and take those. For humanities I usually ask for which ones are more interesting. I’m taking a class now just because someone told me it was an interesting course.

**How far ahead do you typically plan ahead?**

I used to only enroll semester by semester, but now that I’m a junior I have most things planned out for this year and senior year. I guess far now.

**Do you use any resources besides advisors or the course catalog?**

I guess I use my friends and I’ll check Rate my Professor once I need to decide between which section to take.

Interview transcript 7

**What’s your name?**  
  
Michael.

**What is your year and major?**  
  
I’m a freshman in the Olin Business School, but I don’t know my major yet.

**When looking to register, what do you look at when you’re considering a class?**

For this year a lot of the classes I ended up taking were required. Other than that I was looking for smaller classes, like for my first year seminar, so I can get a better experience with the professor.

**Did you talk to any of your friends when looking to enroll?**

Yeah, I had some friends here already, and I talked to them about prospective courses, and I talked with my advisor about what to take.

**Besides class size, what else do you look at?**

I looked at the course description, and I also looked online at stuff like Rate my professor.

**Have you started planning for next semester?**

I’ve looked a little bit. I think I know what I want to take, but they don’t have the course listings for next semester up yet.

Interview transcript 8

**What’s your name, major, and year**

Abbey, junior, biomedical engineer.

**When looking at which courses you might want to take, what specifically do you look for?**

For me, a lot of my courses are pretty ridgid, it just depends on which section I want to take. It’s pretty laid out for coursework. We do have some options for our electives, that’s for more long-term what I want to focus on.

**So what makes you pick one class over another?**

I look mostly at content.

**Do you ask friends or advisors for advice?**

Upperclassmen are really helpful for advice. Sometimes professors will also give advice like “Oh, you should take stats this semester”.

**How far ahead do you plan?**

I generally live by semester. People sometimes as me “oh, are you planning on taking this this year or that year?” but I really take it one semester at a time.

Interview transcript 9

**What’s your name, major and year?**

Ceres Perry Anderson, I’m a first-year, majoring in political science.

**What makes you take one course over another?**

Relevancy to what I’m interested in. I’m really interested in historical classes that connect to modern times. I’m in a few classes like that right now that I’m really interested in. A catchy title helps.

**Do you look at other people for advice?**

I talked to my advisor about it, but nothing outside of that.

**Have you started planning for next year?**

A little. Talking to some of my friends what they’re taking now, what might be interesting, but nothing too much.

**Do you plan to follow their advice?**  
  
Yeah, I mean my advisor has that job for a reason so I typically will listen to what they suggest. It can’t hurt to listen.

Interview transcript 10

**What’s your name, major and year?**

My name is Ben, I’m a junior, and my major is organization and strategic management.

**When it’s time to register in classes, what do you look for to decide if you want to take it or not?**

The first thing I look for is distribution requirements that I have for the business school. First I try to fulfill those, if I have any leeway I try to take classes I’m interested in. Like philosophy, history, Italian. Those usually fill up my schedule.

**What things make you choose one class over another?**

I ask around about the professors. I want to make sure I have the best professor for each class. Other than that, I look into the syllabuses just to see what the workload in the class is like, see if it’s manageable. I think the professors part is most important to me.

**Do you get a lot of information from other students?**

I look online, but most of the information I get is from other students. Especially since the business school is smaller it’s easier to find out what other student’s experiences are like with certain professors and classes.

**How far ahead do you plan? Just semester to semester or do you have a longer plan?**

I have a Google sheets with each year planned out with which classes I need to take. I then have open room for classes that I would want to take. I also keep track of my requirements just to make sure that I’m fulfilling those each semester.

Interview transcript 11

**What is your name?**

May

**What year are you?**

First year.

**What is your major?**

I’m… undeclared.

**Are you leaning towards anything?**

Possibly GHE or some sort of environmental thing.

**Did you go through the registration process here?**  
  
I did it online at home. I called my counselor and we talked through what I should sign up for. He took my suggestions, and gave me a sign-up slot.

**Have you looked at courses for next semester yet?**  
  
A little bit, but the course catalog isn’t really up yet.

**How did you decide on what courses you wanted to take?**

Because I’m undecided, I wanted to take a variety of courses incase I wanted to take engineering or something else in STEM. I took a lot of the general freshmen classes that would keep my options open in case I wanted to look into a couple different routes.

**Would you say that’s your main motivation for picking courses, the pre-reqs? Or is there something else that is your main motivation when you pick a course?**

I took a couple of courses that just sounded interesting. I’m taking a class now where we go hiking in different places in Missouri and learn about the different heritage areas in the state. We go on camping trips, it’s a lot of fun. I’m taking a 1 hour on psychology of young adulthood because it sounded relevant and interesting and relaxing.

**Do you talk to anyone else about what courses you should take?**  
  
Yeah, when I was looking at math courses I texted a friend of mine who is a current senior here. I had taken Calc BC in high school and wanted to take Calc III but wasn’t sure about how it was here. She connected me to a math major friend of hers here who gave me some information that was helpful.

**How far ahead have you planned out your courses?**

I’ve started looking a little bit. It’s overwhelming because I am still undeclared and I need to learn if I have to get stuff done or if I can dabble and try stuff out without being overwhelmed. There are a few courses that I have to take, like Gen Chem, but I haven’t fully decided yet.