Academics – Overview

Core Curriculum for the Associate of Arts Degree

The core curriculum includes:

- Writing and Thinking Workshop
- Book One Program
- Seminar I, II, and III (12 credits)
- Cultural Perspectives (3 credits)
- Arts (3 credits)
- Mathematics (3 credits)
- Natural Science (4 credits)
- World Language (8 credits of same language)

Required and Recommended First-Semester Courses

Required:
You must register for a section of Seminar 1 (FS 100) in your first semester.

Strongly Recommended:
World Languages Courses: We recommend all incoming students begin or continue their foreign language study. Any student wanting to study a language above the 100-level (e.g. 101, 204, 205, 206) must take the Placement Exam for that language. See guidelines for Placement Exams.

Mathematics Courses: We strongly recommend that incoming students meet this requirement in their first or second semester. Before registering for a math course, you must take the Math Placement Exam. See guidelines for Placement Exams.

How to Plan Your Program

NOTE: Before you can plan your courses, you must have submitted your enrollment deposit and all necessary paperwork, and received your temporary username and password from the Admissions office.

College Catalogue
The College Catalogue contains all the information about the curriculum, degree requirements, programs of study, course descriptions, and academic policies.

Course Guide
The Course Guide is the specific course offerings for the semester. You will use the online course guide to select your courses.
Course Load
Students’ course load should add up to between 12 and 18 credits; first-semester students are highly encouraged to register for 14-16 credits in their first semester.

Building Your Schedule
Use the online Course Guide to choose your courses. You can use the Schedule Grid (page 4) to help you lay out your courses.

Keep in mind:
- Check to make sure that class times don’t conflict
- If a course has a required laboratory or studio time, be sure to include it

While it is important to begin fulfilling your requirements, you should choose at least one or two courses in your first semester primarily because they look interesting to you.

Understanding the Course Guide

Courses marked “M1” or “M2”
These are courses two-credit “modular” courses, which meet for half the semester. Those marked M1 meet in the first half of the semester and M2 meet in the second half.

Courses marked “CP”
Courses that include CP in the course name are designated to meet the Cultural Perspectives requirement.

Courses marked “FY”
These courses are recommended for first-year students.

Courses marked “WP”
These courses require a placement test or the permission of the faculty member teaching the course. If you feel you may have the necessary background for a particular advanced course, please include information about your previous experience with your registration worksheet.

Closed courses
If a course is marked “Closed,” it means that it has full enrollment.

Course Fees
Some courses have a course fee, which is indicated in the course description in the course guide. Course fees generally range between $50 and $100, although certain courses (such as photography) have a higher course fee to cover additional materials.

Private Music Lessons
The course guide also lists private music lessons for which you may pre-register and earn one credit. An additional fee is charged for music lessons (e.g., in 2016-17 the fee is $60 per hour-
long lesson, for 13 lessons per semester; a total of $780/semester). Please contact Susan Mower (smower@simons-rock.edu) if you have questions regarding private music lessons.

**Registering for Your Courses**
Now that you’ve thought about your schedule, you’re probably ready to register! Use the Registration Form to submit your requests and alternative courses to the Registrar’s Office. If you have any questions about selecting courses, please email the Registrar at registrar@simons-rock.edu.

Once you have submitted the Registration Form to the Registrar, your preliminary schedule will be built. You will receive an emailed confirmation of your preliminary schedule from the Registrar’s Office within a few days. There is an Add/Drop Period at the beginning of every semester during which time you can revise your schedule, in consultation with your academic advisor.

**Academic Advising**
You will meet with your assigned academic advisor on the Friday before classes begin. At this meeting, you and your advisor will discuss your schedule, make plans for the Add/Drop period if necessary, and arrange your weekly meeting time for the semester.
Academics – Placement Exams

Accessing the Placement Exams

- Go to: https://my.simons-rock.edu
- Sign in using the temporary username and password that were emailed to you
- Click on the Academics tab
- Scroll down to Information for New Students where you will find the Placement Exams

World Languages
All students are required to complete 8 credits of college-level study of a language other than English.

If you wish to register for a language at the 100-level (e.g. SPAN 100, CHIN 100, etc.), you may do so without completing the Placement Exam.

If you want to register for a language course at a level above 100 (e.g. SPAN 101, GERM 204, etc.) you will need to place into that level via a Placement Exam.

Notes about taking the Placement Exam
These tests are diagnostic; you should take one when you have at least two hours free, so you do not feel rushed, although many students finish in a far shorter time. They are multiple-choice tests; you may use paper and pencil, but not books or other source materials. The goal is to place you in a class where you will be able to succeed, without repeating material you've already covered. You will get your results immediately. Be sure to record your score, you will need it for the Registration Form.

Mathematics
The mathematics placement exam is REQUIRED of all new students. The purpose of this test is to help us decide the most appropriate mathematics course for you to begin your studies at Simon’s Rock.

Notes about taking the Placement Exam
When taking the Placement Exam, you should plan to do so when you have at least two hours of free time during which you will not be interrupted. You are not to use any aids, books, or calculators, and are not to receive assistance from anyone else. You should have a pencil and paper ready before starting the test. You will get your results immediately. Be sure to record your results, you will need it for the Registration Form.

If your placement results indicate a math “tutorial”, you should register for MATH 099, and send an email to mathplacement@simons-rock.edu to arrange for a discussion with a mathematics faculty member and/or a member of the academic affairs team regarding the best plan for your mathematic study at Simon’s Rock.
Academics – High School Equivalency

Simon’s Rock will provide transportation for the HiSET on specific dates when the test is being offered in this area. However, it is up to the student and their family to decide which, if any, of these options to pursue and to research the requirements in the student’s home state.

**High School Equivalency/Diploma**

For any student who might consider transferring after their AA studies, we recommend receiving a high school equivalency (HSE) credential or diploma before the end of first year. The summer before first year is a good time to complete the requirements as well. Many states offer high school equivalency exams. Check with your home state.

A high school credential is not necessary for applying to every transfer school, but possessing the credential helps students keep their options open with minimum stress. Depending on individual circumstances, students may have several options.

1. **HSE Test**: Standardized HSE tests including the GED, TASC, and the HiSET.
2. **College Credit Exchange**: Programs offered by certain states allow a student to receive a high school diploma based on college credit.
3. **High School Completion**: It may be possible for the student to make an arrangement with their high school to receive a high school diploma, even after enrollment at Simon’s Rock. Discuss this with your student’s high school **BEFORE** your student begins their study at Simon’s Rock.

Through sponsorship by the College, the Massachusetts HiSET is available to all students, domestic and international, to earn a credential. It consists of a two-day five-subject test covering language arts, science, math, and social studies (more details at hiset.ets.org). To make it convenient for students to take the HiSET, Simon’s Rock provides transportation on select dates to local testing centers.
Academics Checklist

**Before** registering for classes, you must:

- Submit the enrollment deposit
- Submit the enrollment paperwork
- Submit the financial paperwork

Once the deposit and paperwork has been processed, your account will be activated and you will receive (via email from Admissions):

- Your temporary username and password

With your username and password, you will be able to begin the course registration process, which will include:

- Read the Information Sheets: Overview, Placement Exams, High School Equivalency
- Take the language placement exam (if applicable)
- Take the math placement exam
- Review the course guide for the course listings
- Complete the Registration Form
- Receive a confirmation from the Registrar’s Office

See the Academics Information Sheets for details:

- Academics Overview (p. 1-4)
- Placement Exams (p. 5)
- High School Equivalency (p. 6)