Welcome

On behalf of the faculty and staff, congratulations on your acceptance to the Elementary and Early Childhood Department of The College of New Jersey (TCNJ). We have a very exciting and rigorous program and all of our students are double majors. The first major is either in elementary, early childhood or urban education, and the second major is a content specialty such as math, English, history, women’s and gender studies, psychology, Spanish, or sociology, to name a few.

Advising Information

Each of you will be assigned to a faculty member (your advisor) from our department who will meet with you regularly throughout your tenure at TCNJ. You will also have an advisor for your second major. You will have an opportunity to discuss your coursework, independent studies that you might want to pursue, or other academic questions that arise either pre or post registration each semester. It is important to meet with your faculty advisor each semester to assure that you are on the right track and completing all necessary courses for graduation.

Your First Semester

On the back of this letter we have compiled an “Understanding Your First Semester Sequence” document that provides a clear and ordered description of the recommended courses for your first semester. As you enter your junior year, you will be given information about our Global Student Teaching Program which gives students an opportunity to teach in American Schools in Europe, Asia, and Africa. Please be sure to speak to your advisor if you are interested in this alternative program. We pride ourselves at TCNJ and in our department in having close student/faculty relationship that encourage students to take full advantage of the many opportunities that abound at the College. Our faculty is always available through email as well as by appointment.

I look forward to meeting all of you during the coming months. Again, welcome to The College of New Jersey and our community of scholars.

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UNDERSTANDING YOUR FIRST SEMESTER SEQUENCE

Every major has a guideline for its first semester students: the First Semester Sequence. Within this sequence of courses, you will see Major Requirements, First Seminar Program (FSP), and Interdisciplinary Studies requirements. Please reference this First Semester Sequence while completing your online First Semester Worksheet.

Early Childhood Urban Education – iSTEM

Major Requirements
All incoming freshmen will be pre-registered for Major Requirement courses as available:

- MAT 127 – Calculus A* (1 unit)
- TST 161 – Creative Design (1 unit)
- ETE 261 – Multimedia Design (1 unit)
- ELE 99 – College Seminar ECE/ELEM Education (0 unit)

*Calculus A requires a math SAT score of 650 or higher; otherwise you must take MAT 96 – Precalculus (0 unit)

First Seminar Program (FSP)
Select six from the following recommended FSPs (1 unit):

- FSP 161 (Any Section)
- FSP 162 (Any Section)
- FSP 163 (Any Section)
- FSP 164 (Any Section)

Liberal Learning
Select one of the recommended Liberal Learning courses if you place out of your second language requirement:

- Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts
- World Views and Ways of Knowing
- Social Change in Historical Perspectives
- Behavioral, Social, and Cultural Perspectives
- And/or any course satisfying at least one civic responsibility category.

See http://www.liberallearning.pages.tcnj.edu for additional information.

Interdisciplinary Studies (IDS) Requirement
All incoming freshmen will be pre-registered for:

- IDS 102 – Information Literacy Proficiency (0 unit)
- IDS 103 – Community Engaged Learning (0 unit)
- SRP 99 – Summer Reading Program (0 unit)

A “full” load is four course units.

Major Requirements: The Major Requirements section provides a list of the specific courses you are required to take during your first semester. You will be preregistered for them.

First Seminar Program (FSP): The FSP is the cornerstone of the Liberal Learning Program. Please select six FSP courses from the categories on the left, and indicate them on your online First Semester Worksheet. View all sections on the First Seminar website: http://fsp.pages.tcnj.edu. Please bear in mind that we will only see them in alphabetical order, not your order of preference, and that we will make every effort to enroll you in one of the six.

Liberal Learning: If you have AP credits for Calculus you may take an additional liberal learning course from one of the categories on the left. Please seek out departmental advice. Please make your request on your online Worksheet as above.

Interdisciplinary Studies: IDS 102 is a required, on-line, non-credit course administered by the library staff satisfying the information literacy component of the Liberal Learning Program. You should meet this proficiency during your first semester. IDS 103 is our way of keeping track of your community engaged learning requirement. As above, you receive no specific academic credit for it, but you should complete it by the end of your first year.

Summer Reading Program (SRP 99): This required, non-credited program welcomes you to TCNJ’s intellectual community by asking you to critically read a thought-provoking book and share your insights about the book in small group discussions with your peers led by a facilitator during Welcome Week.