Welcome

On behalf of the faculty and staff, congratulations on your acceptance to the Department of Philosophy, Religion and Classical Studies at The College of New Jersey!

We believe that the programs in our department - a major and minor in philosophy, including specializations both in Law and Philosophy and in Ethics; a minor and self-designed major in religion, and an interdisciplinary minor in classical studies - offer an excellent combination of academic rigor, flexibility, and opportunities for personal growth. We are looking forward to meeting you and to your becoming a part of our TCNJ community as you help make your future goals a reality. As a new student you will be working with an award-winning faculty ready to inspire and challenge you to do your very best work.

It will be an exciting year at TCNJ and especially in our own department, and I look forward to meeting you when you arrive on campus in the summer for orientation.

Advising Information

You will be assigned an advisor – a faculty member or assistant dean from our department – who will meet with you regularly throughout your time at TCNJ. You will have opportunities to discuss your course work, independent studies that you might want to pursue, or other academic questions that arise prior to, during, or subsequent to 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.

Until your advisor is assigned, please feel free to contact me should you have any questions at all. You can reach me at robertsm@tcnj.edu or by phone at (609)771-2360 or -2438.

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 and detailed information regarding the liberal learning program, including instructions for selecting your First Seminar class (FSP).

I’m excited to have you join our community. Let’s make this a great year!

Melinda A. Roberts
Department Chair
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E) robertsm@tcnj.edu
http://philos.pages.tcnj.edu/
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 Courses, First Seminar Program (FSP), Liberal Learning courses, and Interdisciplinary Studies requirements. Please reference this First Semester Sequence while completing your online First Semester Worksheet.

### Philosophy

**Major Requirements**

All incoming freshmen will be pre-registered for Major Requirement courses. Select one from the following recommended courses on your online First Semester Worksheet:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Unit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHL 100</td>
<td>Intro to Philosophy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHL 120</td>
<td>Intro to Logic</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHL 135</td>
<td>Contemporary Moral Issues</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**First Seminar Program (FSP)**

Select six from the following recommended FSPs (1 unit):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Unit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FSP 161</td>
<td>(Any Section)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FSP 162</td>
<td>(Any Section)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FSP 163</td>
<td>(Any Section)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FSP 164</td>
<td>(Any Section)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Liberal Learning**

You need to take one liberal learning course. However, you should select six courses from any of the following liberal learning categories on your online First Semester Worksheet (1 unit):

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

See [http://www.liberallearning.pages.tcnj.edu](http://www.liberallearning.pages.tcnj.edu) for additional information.

**Second Language**

This major requires 2nd language proficiency to the 103 level.

Information about language placement criteria is available at [http://wlc.pages.tcnj.edu/](http://wlc.pages.tcnj.edu/). No placement exam is needed to take a 101 or 151 level course in a language not previously studied.

**Interdisciplinary Studies (IDS) Requirement**

All incoming freshmen will be pre-registered for:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Unit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IDS 102</td>
<td>Information Literacy Proficiency</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDS 103</td>
<td>Community Engaged Learning</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SRP 99</td>
<td>Summer Reading Program</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A ‘full’ load is four course units.

**Major Requirements:** The Major Requirements section provides a detailed list of the specific courses you are required to take during your first semester. Please select one of the three courses indicated on the left on your online First Semester Worksheet.

**Interdisciplinary Studies:** IDS 102 is a required, online, 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.

**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](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 and Second Language:** You should take one language course and one course in liberal learning, or one intensive language course (in Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, or Russian) that counts as two courses. If you place out of a language altogether, then you should take two additional liberal learning courses.

There are three ways to complete your liberal learning (LL) requirements: a nine-course distribution, a 6 to 8 course Inter-disciplinary Concentration, or a 2nd major. See [http://www.liberallearning.pages.tcnj.edu](http://www.liberallearning.pages.tcnj.edu) in which case you should select a course from the categories to the left.

Please make your request on your online First Semester Worksheet as above.

**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.