Welcome
On behalf of the faculty and staff, congratulations on your acceptance to Open Options in the School of the Arts & Communication at The College of New Jersey! We believe that the programs in the School of the Arts & Communication and Liberal Learning offer an excellent combination of academic strength, flexibility, and practical experience. 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 I look forward to meeting you when you arrive on campus in the summer for orientation.

Advising Information
I will serve as your academic adviser while you are in the open options program, and we will meet regularly until you are accepted into a major and are assigned a faculty advisor in that area. 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.

Feel free to contact me should you have any questions at all. You can reach me at 609.771.2277 or day@tcnj.edu.

Your First Semester
On the back of this letter, we have compiled an “Understanding your First Semester Sequence” document, which 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).

As a student in the open options program in arts and communication, you are encouraged to include a course in your first semester schedule that allows you to explore one of the major programs in our School: art history, art education, visual art, communication studies, interactive multimedia, music, music education, or music performance. To select an appropriate course, I suggest you visit http://firstreg.pages.tcnj.edu and select a course from the “major requirements” section of the first semester sequence guide for the major or majors that interest you most. If special permission is required to enroll in the courses you select, you can seek this permission at orientation. Placing courses in your shopping cart now will help me understand your interests.

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

Dr. James M. Day
Assistant Dean and Academic Advisor of Open Option Students
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http://artscomm.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 Requirements, First Seminar Program (FSP), Liberal Learning and Second Language, and Interdisciplinary Studies Requirements.

Open Options – School of the Arts and Communication

**Major Requirements**

All incoming freshmen will be pre-registered for AMM 99. In addition, you should add to your shopping cart a course from one of the majors you are considering (see other side).

| AMM 99 – Arts and Communication Seminar | (0 unit) |
| FSP 111, 114 | First Seminar: World Views and Ways of Knowing |
| FSP 121,122, 123, 124, 125 | First Seminar: Behavioral, Social, & Cultural Perspectives |
| FSP 131, 132, 133, 134, 135 | First Seminar: Historical Perspectives |
| FSP 141 | First Seminar: Natural Science |
| FSP 151 | First Seminar: Quantitative Reasoning |

**First Seminar Program (FSP)**

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

- FSP 111, 114
- FSP 121,122, 123, 124, 125
- FSP 131, 132, 133, 134, 135
- FSP 141
- FSP 151

**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/. No placement exam is needed to take a 101 or 151 level course in a language not previously studied.

**Liberal Learning**

You need to take one liberal learning course. However, you should place six courses from any of the following liberal learning categories into your shopping cart (1 unit):

- 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 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) |

A ‘full’ load is 4 course units.

**Major Requirements:**  Only AMM 99 is placed in this category. You will be preregistered in this course. You should also take a course from one of the Arts and Communication majors to ‘test’ your area of interest. It should also fulfill a liberal learning requirement (see below).

**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 put them in your Shopping Cart according to the instructions in PAWS. View all sections on the First Seminar website: http://fsp.pages.tcnj.edu/. Select your six FSPs in accordance with your interests, bearing 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.

**Second Language and Liberal Learning:**  You should take one language course and one additional liberal learning course, or one intensive language course (in Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, or Russian) that counts as two courses. If you test out of the language requirement, you may choose a course on a new language (such as one of the intensive courses) or select two liberal learning courses. If you are considering studio arts or music as a possible major, then take two liberal learning courses from the areas listed to your left.

There are three ways to complete your liberal learning (LL) requirements: a nine-course distribution, a 6 to 8-course Interdisciplinary Concentration, or in the frame of a 2nd major. See http://www.liberallearning.pages.tcnj.edu for additional information.

Please put your request in your PAWS shopping cart.

**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.

**Summer Reading Program (SRP):** 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.