



Special points of interest:

• Freshmen—

4-week appointments with your advisor will begin Sept. 21. You can begin scheduling those appointments Sept 14. soc.american.edu/content.cfm?id=27

• Sophomores—

With one year behind you, be sure to avoid the sophomore slump! Find new opportunities to enrich your academic year by visiting the Career Center, looking into study abroad, and attending the 'Student Activities Involvement Fair' (September 10 on the Quad from 11:30 a.m-2 p. m). The study abroad fair will be held September 4 in MGC rooms 2-6.

• Juniors—

If you have earned 60 or more credits you should schedule a meeting with your advisor to declare your major and discuss your minor.

• Seniors—

You are almost there! If you are planning to graduate in May you should meet with your academic advisor before the last day of drop/add (Sept. 4) to confirm that you are on track to graduate. If you are graduating in December, please remember to apply for graduation on the portal. The application may be found under "Academics" on your portal when it is made available.

Welcome to the SOC

Hello Fall, Goodbye Summer

Welcome to the 2009-2010 academic year! I hope your summer went well and you are now prepared for your fall courses, extra-curriculars, internships, and balancing all of your hard work with some time in the company of good friends and classmates. The School of Communication, as always, was busy over the summer preparing for this year, which is filled with events such as prestigious guest speakers, networking events, the Human Rights Film Series, the Reel Journalism film series, and many more. Please be sure to watch your email and the SOC calendar (<http://www.american.edu/soc/calendar/>) for more information.

I want to extend my personal invitation for you to visit your undergraduate academic advisor early and often. Students are required to meet with their advisor at least once each semester to plan their course schedule for the next semester. However, advisors maintain office hours and can assist you all year round (except when advisors take days off for personal vacations and doctor's appointments - they are human too!). Advisors can help you explore majors and careers, setting realistic academic goals, prepare to study abroad, plan for an internship, think about post graduation options, and much more. Please don't be shy, stop by!

-Rachel D. Andrews

Contact Information

Rachel Andrews Interim Director, Undergraduate Services/Affairs, Senior Advisor (last names P-Z)
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Erin Curtin Advisor (last names A-F)
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Ashley Ackerley Advisor (last names G-O)
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Ellen Mata Senior Administrative Assistant
Main Office: (202)885-2061

Schedule an appointment on line via the SOC website american.edu/soc/. Select information for current students, advising, and then follow the link to the schedule.

To learn more about our faculty and staff, check out our Web biographies on the SOC website, soc.american.edu

Registration Information

Walk-in Advising— During the drop/add period from Aug. 24—Sept. 4, we will offer walk-in advising Monday through Friday from 2-4 p.m for SOC students who have questions that can be addressed in 10 minutes or less. If questions will take longer than 10 minutes, please schedule a full length meeting with your advisor at domino.american.edu/AU/SOC/SOCUGrad.nsf

Waitlist — It is your responsibility to add yourself to the automated waitlist system for a class and to check your e-mail for status updates. It is your responsibility to register and to check the waitlist. Professors are NOT able to add you to the class. You must use the waitlist process if you want to add a class.

Attending a class if you are not registered — If you are not registered for a course by Sept. 4 (the last day to add/drop), you should not be attending. Faculty have been advised not to allow students to stay in courses if they are not registered. The academic calendar can be found at — http://www1.american.edu/american/registrar/calendar09_10.htm

Remember:
Communication courses must be taken for a grade (A-F) to count towards your major or minor.



Did you know the SOC Undergraduate Academic Advising Website is a great place to start when you are looking for answers for common advising related questions? You can find office hours, walk-in information, major worksheets, and links to various other important documents and Web sites! <http://american.edu/soc/resources/Undergraduate-Advising.cfm>

“Pleasant experiences make life delightful. Painful experiences lead to growth.” -- Anthony De Mello



Visit us on-line at soc.american.edu

Do I need an advising appointment? Or can I just walk-in?

Examples of topics that could be covered in a 20 minute appointment include:

- Declaring an SOC major and other major/minor related paperwork or concerns
- Registration clearance and class schedules for upcoming semesters
- Long-range academic planning
- Study Abroad planning
- Major/minor/career exploration
- Other topics you want to discuss in detail and would like a designated time to do so

Walk-in advising is reserved for brief concerns that will take no longer than 10 minutes. Example of topics that could be discussed during walk-in advising include:

- Questions about how/where a COMM class fits within degree requirements
- "What if I drop _____ from my schedule?"
- "What if I add _____ to my schedule?"
- "Where can I find the Academic Calendar?" (hint: the Office of the Registrar's Web site)
- Information about registration for the Senior Professional Internship
- Other topics that require brief answers and/or discussion - a signature, an inquiry about your degree audit report (DARS), etc.

Internships

SOC students are eligible to receive academic credit for one internship their senior year. Students must complete the required prerequisite coursework before registering for COMM-491.

Students taking COMM-491 cannot register for the internship course on-line; you must complete paper registration with the SOC. An information sheet that explains how to

complete the internship registration process is available in Room 300 and on the SOC advising web site. Internship opportunities are displayed on a bulletin board outside Room 300 and on the AU Career Center Web site.

For additional information please contact Ashley Ackerley,

Ackerley@american.edu. The deadline to register for a fall internship is **Sept. 14**.

Did you know that the Career Center offers workshops, seminars, resume critiques, and walk-in hours throughout the semester? Visit its website for more information American.edu/careercenter

Just A Reminder

- Juniors with a 3.5 GPA are eligible to apply for automatic admission to the combined BA/MA program in the SOC. For more information, schedule an appointment with your academic advisor.
- Transfer students who complete both their college writing courses outside of AU must take the English Competency Exam before they graduate. Exam dates are listed on the academic calendar or by contacting the writing center at 202-885-2991
- Your academic advisor is available year round, not just during registration. Thinking about Study Abroad, want to plan out your next few semesters, need to declare your major or want guidance on a minor? Come in during our slower times to chat.