

# PEER TO PEER

THE COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES  
ACADEMIC STUDENT NEWSLETTER

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## STUDENT FAQ OF THE MOUTH:

- **What are the different grading options and when are they appropriate?**
- **The A-F is the most familiar grading option for students here at American. The A-F grading option is the traditional letter grading scale.**
- **Another option is Pass/Fail, in which your grade in the class is either a pass or a fail. Neither affect your GPA. A pass is equivalent to earning a C or higher and you still get credit for the class. Students can use this option for some of their university or gen ed requirements, or elective courses. However, no major or minor classes can be taken pass/fail.**
- **Audit is the grading option in which the class does not count for credit, and the grade does not affect your GPA. Not typically used by degree seeking students.**

## GET TO KNOW YOUR CAS ACADEMIC ADVISORS!

How well do you know your CAS academic advisor? We took a few moments recently to ask each advisor a different question pertaining to their academic experience.



**Marla Boren:** Senior Academic Counselor. She oversees the entire CAS Academic Advising Program.

**Q:** *What is the best advice you received in college?*

**A:** "The best kind of advice that I have received along the way [...] is to try something new and challenging. It is good to step out of your comfort zone and take some risks. You may not always succeed, but you will learn something new about yourself and develop the ability to handle adversity and opportunity when it comes knocking on your door."



**Tyler Atkins:**

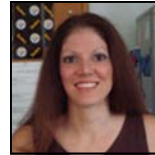
**Q:** *What do you know now that you wish you had known in college?*

**A:** "I wish that I would have taken advantage of the opportunity [to study abroad] when I was in college. I really enjoy traveling and now that I am in the "real world" I have to save money up to take trips and cannot spend the same amount of time in a country as you can

participating in a study abroad program[.]"

**Cheryl Gindlesperger:**

**Q:** *What was your favorite class in college?*



**A:** "[A] world history class, whose title I don't remember, that was taught by Dr. Hill. [He] had a way of structuring and delivering each lecture so that it was almost like he was telling a story that you couldn't help but get sucked into and remember easily later on because it was so entertaining."



**Anne Kaiser:**

**Q:** *When you were a freshman in college, where did you picture yourself post-graduation?*

**A:** "My second semester freshman year, I took a political science course and enjoyed the professor and topic. So I became a political science major. The only thing I ever did related to my major was when I was an academic counselor in the School of Public Affairs for about 5 years."



**Alicia Mandac:**

**Q:** *What was your favorite job in college and why?*

**A:** "In my sophomore year I became an academic peer advisor and an orientation leader. They were my favorite jobs because they introduced me to the world of student and academic affairs and helped me develop numerous professional skills. These jobs helped me discover early on what I wanted to do professionally."

**Jack Ramsay:**

**Q:** *If you went back to college today, what would your major be?*



**A:** "I would likely still major in a foreign language but in combination with something more like AU's Business, Language & Culture degree. My alma mater, Penn State, now has a Business and French degree."

**Doug Vibert:**

**Q:** *What was your major in college and why?*



**A:** "I looked at all the classes I had taken, and saw that I had not only enjoyed my History classes the most but that they were the ones that utilized my writing and researching skills."

## QUICK TIPS ON HOW TO PICK A MAJOR



Picking a major is a difficult decision for many students, especially when there are so many different fields of study and interests. Here are a few quick tips from your peer advisors on how to pin down the best major for you:

- **Your major should be something that you want to study!** However, sometimes it is hard to know if your interest is what you want to study in-depth.
- **Talking to your professors** or departments is a great step in finding out if a major is right for you. If you have a professor—or class—that you really like, try talking to that professor about what a major in that field is like.
- If you are still unsure, there are many great **resources for you provided by the university.** The academic and peer advisors are always here to help! Also try the Career Center which has information about every major as well as jobs and internships. The Career Center also has personality inventories which may help focus your interests.
- Always remember that **there is no rush!** You are not required to declare your major until the beginning of your junior year. Take the time to find what you like!

*Need help choosing a major?*

*Meet with a peer advisor for some tools to narrow your interests*

*-OR-*

*Visit the Career Center on the 5th floor of Butler*

## LOOKING FOR A GREAT NEW JOB? APPLY TO BE A PEER ADVISOR FOR 2010-11!

If you are looking for a great on-campus job for the 2010-11 school year, the College of Arts and Sciences is hiring!

New positions as a peer advisor are opening up for next year and now is the time to apply! We are looking for high achieving and motivated CAS students.

As an academic peer advisor, you will get to work directly with undecided CAS freshmen and sophomore students. Your main

duties will include advising students on: how to pick a major, how to register for classes, preparing a course schedule, publishing a monthly academic newsletter, and so much more!

As a peer advisor you will also get to work with the great CAS academic advisors. You will assist with registration workshops, planning events such as “You’re in the Majors Now!” and more.

Want to know more? All interested applicants should attend one of the information sessions on **Wednesday, February 17** or **Tuesday, February 23** from 5-6 pm in the **Battelle History Lounge (RM 130).**

Applications will be available online and for pick-up in **Battelle 100** starting **February 10th.** Keep an eye out for more information!

**“Being a peer advisor has given me the opportunity to develop many skills important to professional success.”**

**-Amber Tollefson,  
2009-10 CAS peer advisor**

## IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- **2/6: English Competency Exam POSTPONED.** See Literature department for information about re-scheduling.
- **2/8:** Last day to drop a class for a 25% refund, after this date no refunds will be given.
  - **2/8:** Last day to add an independent study.
  - **2/10:** Dean’s List Reception. 4-5:30 pm in Battelle Atrium. Invitation only.
- **2/10:** Peer advisor applications available in Battelle 100 and online.
- **2/15:** Presidents Day. All classes will be in session. All offices open.
- **2/17:** Peer advisor information session. 5-6 pm Battelle History lounge.
- **2/23:** Peer advisor information session. 5-6 pm Battelle History lounge.

