



Undergraduate Studies Program Newsletter – September 12, 2008

Welcome to the September edition of the USP Newsletter! Past issues can be found on the USP web site at <http://www.purdue.edu/usp/about/news.shtml>. Let us know what we can do to improve this important information source by sending your comments and suggestions to usp@purdue.edu!

Here is what you will find in this edition of the Undergraduate Studies Program (USP) Newsletter:

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1. Come Visit Your USP Advisor on Family Day!

The USP office will be holding an open house for all USP students and their families on Family Day, **September 20, 2008 from 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.** in the Young Graduate House (YONG), room 809. Take the elevator to the 8th floor, and then follow the posted signs to the meeting room. There will be breakfast-style treats and plenty of conversation, so stop by and say, “Hello!”

There will also be many other activities available for family fun, including Xtreme bowling and billiards, a pancake breakfast (R.S.V.P. required), the Boilermaker BBQ, and, of course, the football match-up between the Boilermakers and Central Michigan. The complete schedule of events is available at <http://www.union.purdue.edu/HTML/PSUB/FamilyDaySchedule.aspx>.

2. First-semester Students: Call to Schedule Your “September Check-up”

Attention first-semester USP students! We’re asking each of you to meet with your advisor for a “September Check-Up,” a brief appointment to talk about classes, roommates, etc. If you haven’t done so already, please call (765) 494-0843 to schedule a time to meet with your USP advisor. Because we strongly believe in this important checkup, we will withhold your registration PIN for Spring semester until you meet with us, so call soon!

3. Sophomore OEX's Need to Make Plans for CODOing Out

Students who entered Purdue as freshmen in USP in Fall 2007 will need to begin to make plans to CODO out to another school. Why? Because this Fall is the last time you will be able to register for classes as a USP student (for Spring).

It is also an excellent time in the semester to meet with an advisor in the College or School that you are considering CODO'ing into or to attend a CODO meeting in that College or School. This will help you investigate which classes to take during Spring semester. Ideally, you will want to CODO by the early part of Spring semester so that you're eligible to register for Fall 2009 classes in your new School. Contact your USP advisor for more information.

4. Students on Probation Must Complete Laying Tracks Before Registration

If you were placed on academic probation last semester and have not yet completed the Laying Tracks program, you must do so before you will be given the PIN number you need to register for Spring 2009 courses. Laying Tracks helps you to reflect on past mistakes and put together a set of strategies and behavioral changes toward a successful Fall semester. For these reasons, it is the most effective when done early in the semester. Our research shows that it is effective in helping students get off probation quickly.

There are two components to the Laying Tracks Program:

1) First, print out and complete the five Academic Success Exercises, found at the top of this page: http://www.purdue.edu/usp/current/cur_laying_tracks.shtml. All of the information you need to complete these exercises is located within readings on this same page.

2) After you complete all of the exercises, call (765) 494-0843 to make an appointment with your advisor. Bring your completed exercises with you. Your advisor will discuss the results of the exercises with you and help you firm up a plan for the semester. Expect the appointment to take between 30 – 45 minutes.

5. Important Dates for Adding & Dropping Classes

Please note: The Registrar recently announced that the last day to drop classes would occur on Wednesday, October 29, to coincide with what has been printed in the Mortar Board.

Adding or Changing the Times of Courses:

September 2 – September 22 (Weeks 2 – 4): Students can no longer add courses via *myPurdue*. Advisor and Instructor permission required. Pick up a Form 23 from your advisor's office. Turn in the signed Form 23 to the Registrar's office in HOVDE 45.

September 23 – October 29 (Weeks 5 – 9): Extenuating circumstances only. Advisor, Instructor, and Department Head signature required. Take the signed Form 23 to HOVDE 45.

Dropping Courses:

September 9 – September 22 (Weeks 3 – 4): Students can no longer drop courses via *myPurdue*. Advisor signature required. Pick up a Form 23 from advisor's office and turn into

the Registrar's office in HOVDE 45. A "W" grade will be recorded on student's record (counts toward USP hours).

September 23 – October 29 (Weeks 5 – 9): Take completed Form 23 to HOVDE 45.

Freshman: Advisor signature required on the Form 23. A "W" grade will be recorded.

Sophomores and higher: Advisor and Instructor signature required on the Form 23. Instructor will indicate if passing ("W") or failing ("WF"). Neither grade counts in the GPA.

8-week courses have different drop and add deadlines. Please consult this page for these deadlines and for refund percentages of tuition:

http://www.purdue.edu/Registrar/pdf/ScheRev2008_09_Fall.pdf

6. Study Abroad Deadline Approaching Fast!

Purdue's Office of Programs for Study Abroad has more than 200 programs in 50 countries. More than 1250 Purdue students study abroad each year and make their advisors wildly jealous with tales of their wonderful experiences! A list of program options and application procedures is available at <http://www.studyabroad.purdue.edu>. Applications to study abroad for the Spring semester are due by 5:00 p.m. on September 15.

If you just want to figure out whether a Study Abroad experience is affordable or possible, we encourage you stop by the Study Abroad office during their walk-in days. Every Wednesday and Thursday, you can visit **Young Graduate House (YONG), room 105 from 3:30 p.m. to 4:20 p.m.** to learn all about studying overseas. Questions on study abroad options or application procedures may also be addressed to the Study Abroad office at (765) 494-2383.

7. Help Purdue Keep You Safe – Sign Up for the Emergency Warning Notification System

Purdue's Emergency Warning Notification System was created last year to allow critical information to be sent via text message to any participating student's cell phone in the case of a campus-wide emergency. To register your cell phone number, click on <http://www.purdue.edu/securepurdue/>. Then select the icon for **Change Your Password**, enter your career account name and password, and then select the **Emergency Contact Information** link. Your cell phone number will only be used to text you if there is a campus-wide emergency.

More information about Purdue's strategy for Emergency Preparedness is available at http://www.purdue.edu/emergency_preparedness/.

8. While you're at it, Make sure to update your Local Address. . .

In order for the university offices to mail you important information, such as credit evaluation reports, your local address needs to be correct in myPurdue. To check and update your local address, go to myPurdue (<http://mypurdue.purdue.edu>).

9. . . . And Set Up Your Residence Hall Voice Mail

If you are living in a residence hall, it is very important that you set up your voice mail and learn your room telephone number. USP staff members are not allowed to call long distance cell phone numbers, so if we need to call you in an emergency situation, we will use your residence hall number.

10. Help Resources are Available

Once again, the USP Website comes to the rescue as your one-stop shop for resources! This link will provide you with valuable information about tutoring in a variety of subjects: http://www.purdue.edu/usp/acad_resources_support/index.shtml. Once there, click on the "Advisor's Resource Guide" link for the most complete listing of resources.

11. Academic Success Skills Workshops

The Academic Success Center offers free workshops designed to help students succeed academically. No reservations are necessary. These workshops are offered on specific **Wednesdays from 4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.** Here's the schedule for the rest of the semester:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Location</u>
Sept. 17	Overcoming Anxiety in Math and Science	STEW 318
Sept. 24	Get your Money's Worth from your Text and Notes	STEW 318
Oct. 1	Combating the 2 P's (Procrastination & Perfectionism)	STEW 318
Dec. 3	Surviving Finals Week	STEW 213

The Academic Success Center also offers handouts and one-to-one study skills consultation. Investigate these options by visiting their office, BRNG 3268, or their website: <http://www.cla.purdue.edu/asc/student-support/>.

12. Upcoming Career Fairs

For information about upcoming career and job fairs go to the following website: <https://www.cco.purdue.edu/Student/>, click on Quick Link for **Campus Career Fairs**. Here's a brief listing of career fairs you might want to visit. Go to the CCO site for times and locations:

Computer Roundtable

Friday, September 12, 2008

Civil Engineering Career Fair

Wednesday, September 17, 2008

Hospitality & Tourism Management Career Day

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

13. GS 119 Offers “Major” Info for Purdue Students

GS 119 is a class that provides a good introduction to each of Purdue’s degree-granting colleges/schools and their majors. Visitors are welcome to attend! GS 119 sessions are held **Monday & Wednesday in PHYS 112 from 3:30 p.m. – 4:20 p.m.** For more information, contact Chandra Holloway in the USP office, Young Graduate House (YONG), 8th floor. To see which sessions are upcoming, check out the schedule on the USP website: http://www.purdue.edu/usp/contribute_docs/GS119Fall2008ScheduleNEW.pdf.

14. ESL Conversation Groups Help International Students

ESL (English as a Second Language) Conversation Groups are held daily in the Writing Lab, Heavilon Hall (HEAV), room 226. This group helps international students improve their English speaking skills. For more information, contact ESL Coordinator **John Hitz** at <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/contact/writinglabeslcoordinator>.

- **Mondays:** 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
- **Tuesdays:** 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- **Wednesdays:** 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- **Thursdays:** 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- **Fridays:** 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

The Writing Lab also runs a conversation group for grammar on **Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.** For more information, contact **Brady Spangenberg** at <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/contact/owlmailcoordinator>.

Undergraduate Studies Program (USP)
Young Hall, 8th Floor
(765) 494-0843
usp@purdue.edu
<http://www.purdue.edu/usp>