

## Advising FAQs (for main on campus program)

- **Who is my advisor?**
  - First semester new students: Angie Mello [amello@Fullerton.edu](mailto:amello@Fullerton.edu)
  - Second semester students and until they begin practicum: Rebekah Smart [rsmart@fullerton.edu](mailto:rsmart@fullerton.edu)
  - Students in practicum until the end of the program: Matt Englar-Carlson [mattec@fullerton.edu](mailto:mattec@fullerton.edu)
- **When am I required to see my advisor?**
  - During first semester in order to establish a study plan
  - During the semester prior to practicum
  - During the semester prior to graduating
  - When I have needed to deviate from my study plan, either because my circumstances changed or because I could not get into the course in my plan. This means that most students should see their advisor about once a year, if not each semester.
- **Am I guaranteed to get all the courses as planned in my study guide exactly as they are laid out?**
  - No, but if everyone plays by the rules, it usually works out even if not exactly as planned
  - We are a flexible program. The benefit of this is that when life circumstances change for you, we try to accommodate. The drawback is that with flexibility comes unpredictability in the spaces available in certain classes.
  - Understand that the study plan is not a “contract” and that flexibility may be required of you.
  - Priority space in pre-requisite courses is given to students that are just about to enter practicum
  - Priority space is given to students who are just about to graduate
- **What is important to understand before registering for classes?**
  - Stick to your study plan as much as possible
  - If a class is full, register for another appropriate option and contact your advisor right away to inform them. This is important for the department’s understanding of what is needed. It’s also important because you may inadvertently do something that impacts your ability to start practicum or graduate as planned (for example, you may not realize that a prerequisite course for practicum is not offered in a semester), or you may be taking a space that another student must have.

- **How many classes should I or can I register for?**
  - You can take 2-3 classes in fall and spring, and 1-2 in summer. You need to finish the program within 5 years, although exceptions can be made to extend to 7 years.
  - Do not register for more than 3 classes in fall and spring (or more than 2 in summer). This also means do not register for 4 with the intention of dropping one once you know your work or life schedule. When you register for 4, that means another student cannot get into a needed class.
  
- **What are the cost considerations to be aware of?**
  - Always check with the CSUF Student Business Services <https://sbs.fullerton.edu/students/all-student-fees/> and financial aid in order to get individualized answers about any of this. Your department advisors are not specialists in this area.
  - However, in general: 0-6 units has one fee, and 7+ units has another
  
- **Who should I talk to if I think I need to withdraw from the program or take a leave of absence?**
  - Your current professors and advisor
  - If you decide to pursue it, meet with Rebekah Smart (regardless of where you are in the program)
  
- **What is the summer session?**
  - Summer classes meet for 8 weeks, typically beginning right after Memorial Day.
  - They meet at either 3:30 or 6:30 twice a week (M/W or T/TH) for 2:45 minutes each.
  
- **Do I have to attend summer school?**
  - Only when you are in practicum (summer session Coun 590). The practicum contract is for a whole year.
  - Attending summer classes will help you move through the program more quickly, and it is cost effective to take two rather than one. We do not offer all classes in summer and they tend to fill up. Please be aware that in most cases, students can get into one summer class, but not always two.
  - Sometimes students decide not to take any summer classes except for the required practicum. This is fine, but you must also be flexible about your graduation timeline.