PLANNING AN ACADEMIC PROGRAM

All regular students are assigned a faculty advisor who is available to help in planning a college program. As possible, advisors are assigned according to a student’s interest area. Students are encouraged to work closely with their faculty advisors during pursuit of an academic program at Trinity. Advisement sheets listing general education and major requirements are available in the College Dean’s Office. As a student progresses in his or her degree work and completed requirements are posted on the academic transcript, the student and academic advisor may access and review this information by using the “Degree Audit” and “Academic Record” links on the Web.

Students who have not decided on a major field of study should concentrate on meeting general education requirements. First-year students should register for a Bible course unless an exception is made by the Dean of the College. Students who have fairly well-defined educational goals should begin coursework in the major, at the same time finishing general education courses. This is especially important in music, education, and science. When a major field is selected, students should confer with the department chair and apply for a major. An advisor will be assigned from that discipline to help students plan a program of study consistent with personal objectives and goals. A declaration of major must be filed prior to registration for the junior year.

Although the college catalog is not a legal contract, it does outline institutional policies, procedures, and regulations and describes requirements that students must meet before qualifying for a Trinity degree.

With regard to curricular offerings, students should note that requirements for an academic major in effect for the year in which the first enrollment occurred (matriculation) are applicable as long as the student continues to attend Trinity, provided the degree is complete within seven years of that first catalog date.

When curricular changes are made, students may follow either the original or changed curriculum requirements. However, students must choose one catalog or the other—not a combination of the two. Reasonable substitutions will be made for discontinued or changed courses. Students seeking licensure in elementary, secondary or K-12 education should be aware that the programs are accredited by and subject to Illinois State Board of Education curriculum requirements. While every effort will be made to apprise students of changes, they must fulfill these requirements to be licensed regardless of their matriculation catalog.

Students working toward a degree must file the “Application for Graduation” document one calendar year prior to the date (semester) that a student intends to complete all degree requirements to assure proper and timely completion of graduation requirements.