FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Below are the answers to some of the most frequently asked questions. If you do not find the answer you are looking for, please email first-year.affairs@yale.edu.

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Frequently Asked Questions:

ACADEMIC QUESTIONS:

When is the final transcript due?

Please ask your school official to submit the Common Application Final Report form as soon as your final grades have been recorded or no later than July 10 via the online Common Application website or you can mail it to Office of Undergraduate Admissions, P.O. Box 208234, New Haven, CT 06520-8234. If you do not expect your results by July 10, please notify aaron.brockway@yale.edu or call 203-432-9311.

May I take Yale Summer Session courses after I graduate from high school? Will they appear on my Yale transcript? May I take non-Yale courses this summer, and will they appear on my Yale transcript?

Yes, to both questions. Yale Summer Session (YSS) courses are considered Yale courses in full and automatically appear on a student’s Yale transcript. This applies to YSS courses taken in the summer between high school and enrolling at Yale.

Yale students are also allowed to transfer in a maximum of two outside credits over the course of a student’s Yale career; that includes credits earned after graduation from high school but before enrolling in Yale. The Yale College Programs of Study rules for credits earned at other colleges or universities specify that such credits must be earned at a four-year, B.A.- or B.S.-granting, accredited institution (and not, for example, at a community college).

Credits earned at other colleges or universities while a student was enrolled in high school (“dual-enrollment credits”) are not eligible for transfer onto a student's Yale transcript, except in the case of local high school students enrolled in the Yale-New Haven Public High School Program.

How can I view my AP scores?

You can view your AP scores through the College Board website at www.collegeboard.com. When you arrive to campus in August you will be notified of the AP scores Yale has on file for you.

How and when do IB Diploma candidates submit their official IB test score reports?

IB test score reports for IB Diploma candidates need to be received at the very latest by the end of a student’s first year at Yale; they cannot be processed after that. On the other hand, earlier is better than later (for you).

The IBO.org website indicates that, for requests after July 5 (for May examination sessions) or January 3 (for November examination sessions), IB graduates can request that their transcripts to be sent to institutions directly by placing a request through rrs.ibo.org. Additional information is available at https://www.ibo.org/programmes/diploma-programme/assessment-and-exams/getting-results/.

You should direct your score reports to Yale University.

Any additional questions about the receipt or logging in of score reports should be sent to the Yale University Registrar’s Office at registrar@yale.edu.

Does Yale allow “placing out” of distributional requirements based on AP or IB tests or other similar test scores?

No, Yale students are not allowed to place out of, or skip, distributional requirements, regardless of AP, IB or other test scores.

Your scores may, however, allow you to place out of certain introductory courses. Each individual department determines how (and whether) students may use AP, IB, or A-level test scores, and such information is available on individual departments’ websites.

How do I determine which placement exams I should take? Should I take all of them?

Most incoming first-year students will take only some placement exams. Some may take no placement exams, but few, if any, will take all of the placement exams.

Two general rules of thumb you can use are:

• Only take placement exams in subjects you intend to study during your first two semesters at Yale
• Take a foreign language placement exam for any language that you studied previously or that you speak as a heritage speaker
Also keep in mind that the Departments of Economics, English, and Physics don’t have placement exams, but do have procedures for placing incoming first-year students. Check the First-Year Handbook or departmental websites for additional information.

Chemistry has a placement procedure based on the Math and Science Survey, as does Physics, but unlike Physics, Chemistry also offers an in-person exam during First-Year Orientation for students who wish to take a level of chemistry higher than the level into which they were placed.

**Are all placement exams online?**

Many departments offer summer online placement exams. Some only offer face-to-face placement exams during First-Year Orientation, and some foreign language departments supplement their summer online placement exams with brief oral interviews during First-Year Orientation.

Chemistry has a placement procedure based on the Math and Science Survey, and also offers an in-person exam during First-Year Orientation for students who wish to take a level of chemistry higher than the level into which they were placed.

Economics offers a placement procedure based on the results of the Math and Science Survey, as does Physics.

English uses a placement procedure based on a student’s reason for taking introductory English courses (for writing instruction, for an introduction to English literature, as a prospective major, etc.) and the array of courses offered each fall.

See the Placement Exam Chart in the First-Year Handbook for additional placement exam information.

**What if I am unable to take the summer online placement exams?**

Students are expected to take summer online placement exams between the open and close dates, July 1-August 15. However, some incoming first-year students may not have access to a computer or wifi over the summer. Therefore, most departments also offer regularly scheduled make-up exams during First-Year Orientation (some will be online, and others will be in person). Information about make-up exams will be posted at the end of the summer on Yale Connect, https://orgsync.com/login/yale-university, and may also be available on individual departments’ websites.

In most cases, students who miss both a summer online placement exam and the subsequent make-up exam during First-Year Orientation will have to wait until the spring semester or the next academic year to take a placement exam.

**Does every incoming first-year student need to take the Math and Science Survey? I don’t plan to major in a STEM field at Yale — I do still need to take it?**

Yes, every incoming first-year student must take the Math and Science Survey. In fact, it’s key because some departments, such as Chemistry, Economics, Mathematics, and Physics, use the survey results along with other data to determine each incoming student’s initial placement in courses students commonly take during their first year.

In addition, Yale’s distributional requirements mean that many students — even those not planning to major in a STEM field — will take an economics or STEM course to fulfill their quantitative reasoning (QR) or science (Sc) distributional requirements.

Lastly, premed students at Yale major in a variety of fields — including many in the humanities and social sciences — but, regardless of major, premeds must still enroll in the subject fields covered by the Math and Science Survey.

**I have questions about acceleration credits and Yale’s acceleration policies. Whom should I ask?**

Figuring out acceleration credits is complicated, and acceleration credit questions are best answered by your residential college dean once you arrive on campus. In the meantime, you may find answer to some of your questions in the First-Year Handbook, on the Acceleration and Acceleration Credits page of the Advising Resources Website, or in the Yale College Programs of Study.

**Where can I find course information? When do I have to preregister?**

Course information is available online via Yale Course Search. Unlike many other colleges, only certain Yale courses use a preregistration system and, for those courses, preregistration opens during First-Year Orientation in the fall, once you’re on campus. You can find complete preregistration information, including a list of courses that use preregistration, at https://yalecollege.yale.edu/academics/preregistration-applications-and-preference-selection

**How can I get into Yale courses that don’t require preregistration?**

The majority of Yale College courses don’t require preregistration. Students enroll in those courses simply by attending and then listing them on their final course schedules, due approximately two weeks into the term and near the conclusion of course selection period (course selection period allows students to sit in on courses before making a final decision).

Some courses that don’t require preregistration may require the permission of the instructor and, if so, a notation will appear in Yale Course Search. Your residential college dean and first-year counselor will thoroughly explain the procedures for selecting, preregistering for, and enrolling in courses during First-Year Orientation.
Frequently Asked Questions

ACCESS AND PERSONAL INFORMATION QUESTIONS:

How do I find my Student Identification Number?
Go to https://www.sis.yale.edu to find your student identification number (SID). Your SID is a 9 digit number beginning with 90xxxxxxx or 91xxxxxxx.

How do I find my NetID?
Your NetID is a unique identifier that allows you to access online resources and your EliApps e-mail account.

You will receive an email notification, after you matriculate, when your NetID is ready to be retrieved and activated. Please note that it takes roughly 1-2 days, after you matriculate, for your NetID to be ready for you to retrieve and activate. If, after two days, you are not able to retrieve and activate your NetID, email helpdesk@yale.edu or call 203-432-9000.

After you receive the email notification, go to the NetID page for instructions on how to retrieve and activate your NetID. Write your NetID on a piece of paper until you have it memorized.

You will use your NetID often throughout your time at Yale. You will still need your Eli Account to access the Online Decisions site as well as the Admitted Students Website.

How do I access Yale’s online services and email?
Your NetID will give you access to your Yale EliApps email account. First, you must retrieve and activate your NetID. Then you may go to EliApps to sign into your Yale email account.

How do I change my permanent home address, home and cell phone number, or update my emergency contact information?
Use the Student Information System to update your information.

I recently legally changed my name. How can I change my name in Yale’s system?
If you had a legal name change, the University Registrar’s Office needs documentation confirming the change of name before they can make any updates in Yale’s system. Go to http://registrar.yale.edu/students/name-policy-and-use for more information. For non-legal preferred name changes, use the Student Information System.

I am an international student; when will the I-20 form be sent to me so that I can apply for a Visa?
For more information visit the Office of International Students and Scholars or e-mail ozan.say@yale.edu.

I need to purchase a computer and/or cell phone. Are there academic priced packages available through Yale?
For more information go to IT at Yale.

Can my parents access my student record?
You can grant permission for others to view grades and holds in Proxy Management. Proxy Management will also include settings for you to give others access to eBill/ePay, the student account payment system. Take a moment to log into SIS and begin entering your proxy information. After you are finished, your proxy must also take steps to complete their account setup. More information and instructions for students and proxies can be found at sfas.yale.edu/proxy. For help with system access, setup and features, email proxy.access@yale.edu (proxy.access@yale.edu?subject=RE:%20New%20Way%20to%20Authorize%20Access%20to%20Your%20Information).

Where should I send my scholarship letter?
Send a scan of the letter to sfsc@yale.edu.

CALENDAR QUESTIONS:

What are the dates for fall, winter and spring breaks and when do the residences close for undergraduates in May?
Please see the Yale College Calendar.

When is Family Weekend?
Family Weekend will be held October 4-6, 2019.

HEALTH RELATED QUESTIONS:

What immunizations do I need before coming to campus?
Go to New Undergraduate Student Forms for more information.

HOUSING QUESTIONS:
When will I receive information about housing and roommates?

On June 26 you may view your housing and roommate assignment from the link provided at www.yale.edu/first-year.

What should I buy for my room?

For more information go to the Planning Your Move page.

Do first-year students have to live on campus?

Students in their first four terms of enrollment must live on campus unless they are married or are at least twenty-one years of age. For more information see Undergraduate Regulations: Dormitory Regulations.

YALE HOSPITALITY QUESTIONS:

Do I have to have a meal plan and when do I sign up for one?

All students living on-campus must have a meal plan. First-years are automatically assigned to the full meal plan upon enrollment. In September, students may select the Anytime Meal Plan Plus Flex Points. For more information go to the Yale Hospitality website.

ORIENTATION/OPENING DAY/PLANNING YOUR MOVE TO YALE QUESTIONS:

When do I need to arrive on campus?

You are expected to arrive on Friday, August 23, between 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. Please schedule your travel so that you arrive during these hours. We recommend that you come to campus as soon after 9 a.m. as you can on August 23 so that you have as much time as possible to get settled and to enjoy first-year student orientation activities. All first-years must be on campus from August 23-September 2. *Please note that keys will not be distributed before 9 a.m.

If you choose to attend a pre-orientation program, i.e., Cultural Connections, FOCUS, FOOT, Harvest, or the Orientation for International Students, you will need to arrive before Friday, August 23. Please see First-Year Student Academic Calendar for the dates of these programs and arrival information.

When should my family members depart?

We encourage families to attend the panel discussion about undergraduate education and the residential colleges, followed by the residential colleges’ open houses, on Friday, August 23, as well as the Yale College Assembly and the President’s Reception on Saturday, August 24. We suggest that parents depart by 3-5 pm on Saturday.

When will I receive information about moving to Yale?

You are expected to arrive on Friday, August 23, between 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. Please schedule your travel so that you arrive during these hours. We recommend that you come to campus as soon after 9 a.m. as you can on August 23 so that you have as much time as possible to get settled and to enjoy first-year student orientation activities. Go to the Planning Your Move to Yale section of the first-year website for more information.

How do I receive mail on campus?

See Mail and Shipping.

How should I ship my stuff to campus?

We recommend that you bring with you your most important items. Items that you cannot bring may be shipped via United Parcel Service (UPS) or motor freight carrier. There is no storage space on campus, so please plan accordingly. For more information see Mail and Shipping.

May I keep my car on campus?

Go to Student Parking for more information.

Which banks have ATMs on campus?

Bank of America has an ATM in Durfee's located on the Old Campus and in the lobby of Sterling Memorial Library. Their offices are located at 157 Church Street and 88 Broadway.

PRE-ORIENTATION PROGRAM QUESTIONS:

When may I apply for a pre-orientation programs, i.e., Cultural Connections, Focus, FOOT, Harvest, and the Orientation for International Students?

First-years may apply for an optional pre-orientation program beginning May 1, 2019. The deadline to apply is July 1. For more information or to apply see Pre-orientation Programs.
If you choose to attend a pre-orientation program, i.e., Cultural Connections, Focus, FOOT, Harvest, or the Orientation for International Students, you will need to arrive before Friday, August 23. Please see Yale College Calendar for the dates of these programs and arrival information.

Some scholarships are available for each of the pre-orientation programs. Please see the program information for specifics.