

Spring 2016

Crim Communique

Volume 21, Issue 3

January 2016

SPECIAL DROP/ADD ADVISING HOURS:

DROP-IN ADVISING ONLY

JANUARY 11-20

8:30 AM-11:30 AM

And

1:00 PM- 4:00 PM

Dates of Interest:

- Classes Begin: 1/11
- Martin Luther King Day
(No Classes): 1/18
- Regular Drop Deadline:
1/20
- Regular Add Deadline:
1/21
- Spring Break: 3/6-3/12

Welcome to Spring 2016!!!

Welcome to Spring 2016. The advisers have already gotten started with academic reviews and are beginning to look at May graduation. If you are planning to graduate in May take a look at your degree audit – it should say **ALL REQUIREMENTS HAVE BEEN MET OR ARE IN PROGRESS**. If it does not please come to drop-in advising January 11 – 20. Hopefully closer to the 11th so you will have time to make changes if needed!

This should be the last semester with a 10 day drop add/period. But please take a moment to think about this. Ten days is almost 15% of the semester. Students who push that dead-

line are missing 15% of the available instruction for a course. Don't put yourself at that disadvantage. Get your schedule finalized as early as you can. If you are deciding between two classes – go to both. It is more work now, but it will pay off in the end.

Have a great semester! Study hard, learn lots, and make good use of your time. Remember, your college career is only 128 weeks. That is 16 weeks times 8 semesters. Spend each one wisely.

We would love to have words of wisdom from our students to pass along. If you have done a great internship, studied abroad

somewhere wonderful, have a great study tip, or found a unique class you would like to share – please write a paragraph or two and email it to your adviser with your name, major, expected graduation semester, and a request to have it added to the next newsletter. We would love to make these pages about the things you are interested in as well as the things we think you need to know.



Spring 2016 Advising Hours

Sociology and Criminology academic advisers will have special advising hours during the Drop/Add period. Drop-in advising only will take place from January 11-20 from 8:30 AM-11:30 AM and 1:00 PM-4:00 PM. Students will not be able to

schedule appointments during this time.

Regular advising hours will begin on Thursday, January 21. The weekly drop-in advising schedule will be Monday and Wednesdays from 1:00-4:00 PM and Fri-

days from 9:00 AM-11:00 AM. All other advising times are by appointment only. Students should use the following link to schedule an appointment with their assigned adviser: www.la.psu.edu/advising-appt.

Liberal Arts Career Week

The 1st Annual Liberal Arts Career Week is a week-long event from January 18-23, 2016 and is designed to provide students with opportunities to develop professional skills and provide networking opportunities that will support their future career paths. By participating in this week's employer and alumni panels, workshops, and Career Exploration with Alumni, students can learn skills needed to embark on their career journey and achieve success in their professional lives. Join the

Liberal Arts Career Enrichment Network and take advantage of all the great events and networking opportunities this week! More information about Liberal Arts Career Week and RSVP information can be found on the Liberal Arts website: <http://bit.ly/lacareers>



Study Abroad Criminology Experience

The Department of Sociology and Criminology is offering a faculty-lead Study Abroad opportunity this summer: The Netherlands: Dutch Criminal Justice in Comparative Perspective. The program is designed to introduce students to concepts of crime and punishment in The Netherlands and to provide an opportunity for direct exposure to a system very different from our

own. Students will observe Dutch ideology and practice in the design, rationale, and implementation of criminal justice. The students will be accompanied to Amsterdam by Dr. Howard Smith, Lecturer of Crime, Law, and Justice, in the College of the Liberal Arts at Penn State. The class will be taught primarily by various professors in The Netherlands and by several guest

lecturers. All are authorities on crime and the Dutch justice system. Students taking part in these experiences and completing the appropriate course work can earn credits both towards their major and degree. The deadline to apply for the trip is February 1, 2016. For additional information, contact the Office of Global Programs or visit your adviser.

Summer Internships

Are you thinking about completing an internship this summer for credit? To be eligible to obtain credit for your internship you must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.00, completed CRIM 250W with a C or better, and obtained formal approval from the internship coordinator (Amy Schmoeller, 211 Os-

wald) prior to registering for the internship.

The deadline to indicate your intent to complete an internship for credit in Summer 2016 is February 19, 2016.

If you have any questions regarding internship policies and procedures, please contact Amy or your adviser.



Thinking About a Concurrent Major?

A concurrent major, earning a degree or degrees in more than one Penn State major at the same time, is an excellent opportunity to combine your academic interests and to help meet career goals. To begin the concurrent major process, schedule an appointment to meet with your assigned adviser. Your adviser will begin the Application for Approval of Concurrent Majors and document the remaining courses, requirements, and credits to be completed in your primary major. Once that is complete, the Department Head will review and sign your application. Your next step

will be to schedule an appointment with an adviser in the major/department you would like to declare your second major in. They will complete the same steps as your primary adviser and when finished, the application will be signed and approved from the Dean of your current and concurrent major. Students will receive an email confirmation that their concurrent major was approved and also a copy of the application to use as a guide in academic planning.

Many students add one or more of the following concurrent majors to

their Criminology degree: Psychology, Sociology, Political Science, and Communication Arts and Sciences.



Scheduling for Upcoming Semesters

Spring 2016 is just getting underway and it's time to talk about next semester.

If next semester means Summer 2016 for you, the registration date will be February 2, 2016 for University Park and for World Campus. This summer will be the final semester to schedule using elion. If you plan to take classes anywhere other than University Park and you

will be taking classes towards your major requirements be sure to discuss the competency policy with your adviser! You may take just 10 credits of major work at a campus other than University Park. Be sure to bring this up during your next advising appointment if you are planning summer work elsewhere.

If next semester means Fall 2016 for you, the first day to register will

be March 5, 2016. We will be using a new system for fall semester and the advisers are being trained in early February on the process. Look for us to be in touch with you shortly after that with instructions. This change will not impact course offerings or change any graduation requirements. It will simply update the way you register for your classes. We will share more information as we learn it ourselves.

Balancing Your Academic Schedule

As you begin thinking about scheduling courses for the Fall, it is important to remember to create balance in your academic schedule. Rather than scheduling all of your courses over two or three days, if possible spread the courses out over five days. It is also recommended that you create a balance

in the courses you take. Rather than scheduling all 400 level courses or all general education courses, a schedule should include a balance in areas you find challenging and ones that fit your skills and strengths. Following these tips will hopefully help reduce academic stresses and create a balanced time

frame to complete all academic needs.



**Department of Sociology and
Criminology Academic Advising
Offices**

315, 316, and 317 Oswald Tower

Phone: 814-865-2217

To Schedule an Advising Appointment, go to: www.la.psu.edu/advising-appt/



Top 10 “Must Do’s” for Seniors Before Graduating

1. Declare your intent to graduate on eLion between Jan. 2-25.
2. Meet with your adviser during Drop/Add to review your degree audit and all requirements.
3. Begin to monitor your academic performance in all of your courses. If you are struggling seek out assistance.
4. Read and respond (if requested) to emails sent from Student Services
5. Purchase your cap and gown for the graduation ceremony.
6. Update your local and permanent address. Information regarding commencement will be mailed to your local address and your diploma will be mailed to your permanent address after graduation.
7. Reserve hotel rooms for family members. Most local hotels become full over graduation weekend.
8. Be sure all Minors are declared on eLion by the April 8th deadline.
9. Complete the Senior Survey for Criminology.
10. Take time to reflect on your time in Happy Valley and thank those who have helped you along the way.

Penn State Learning is Here to Help!

Did you know there is a resource on campus that offers FREE tutoring and guided study groups for many subjects? Penn State Learning, located in 220 Boucke, is a multi-disciplinary academic assistance program that is staffed by peer tutors who are themselves undergraduates, by scholars in residence who are content experts in their respective fields, and by professional and administrative staff members. They provide tutoring and learning opportunities in the subjects of: Economics, Languages, Mathematics, Philosophy, Public Speaking, Sciences, Statistics, and Writing. They also offer reservations of Study Spaces and Teamwork Areas for group projects.

Take advantage of a great resource to help improve your academic performance today! Questions, contact Penn State Learning at 865-1841 or visit them at pennstatelearning.psu.edu.



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