

SIMPSON COLLEGE FACULTY HANDBOOK PART V: ACADEMIC INFORMATION

NOTE: The items in this section are provided for informational purposes only. Additions, amendments and deletions may be made by the office or agency responsible. Items are informational in nature and should not be considered contractual.

ACADEMIC ADVISORS – Academic Dean

Freshman advisees are assigned an advisor who is the faculty member they have chosen as their liberal arts seminar instructor. This faculty member remains the new student's advisor until the student selects a major field of concentration. At that time, he/she chooses or is assigned to an advisor in that field. In addition to the LAS first year advisor, there will be departmental advisors for students in education and other selected areas.

CATALOG– Academic Dean

The official catalog of the college provides the guide to college policy, although student handbooks, faculty actions, and administrative decisions supplement this from time to time.

COMMENCEMENT– Academic Dean

Graduating seniors are expected to be present for commencement exercises. Commencement is part of graduating. Faculty members are likewise expected to attend commencement.

CONVOCATION– Academic Dean

Convocation is held at the beginning of the fall semester. Honors convocation is held at the end of spring semester. All faculty are expected to attend and process in academic regalia.

COURSES AT 100 LEVEL– Academic Dean

Inasmuch as 100-level courses are offered primarily for freshmen, academic advisors should discourage registration of juniors or seniors for 100-level courses

CURRICULUM-Faculty Constitution

Matters concerning additions, deletions, or modifications in the college curriculum are considered by the faculty committee on educational policy and curriculum. Final decision and action rests with the faculty.

EPSILON SIGMA-Epsilon Sigma

Epsilon Sigma is the honorary scholastic fraternity at Simpson. Ten percent of the graduating class is elected each year. Please warn candidates that incomplete grades may lower grade point averages that would otherwise make students eligible for election.

FACULTY MEETINGS-Faculty Constitution

The corporate faculty meets prior to the beginning of the academic year at the end of August, thereafter on the first Tuesday of the month, beginning October through May, with the following exceptions: the January meeting will be the Tuesday of the second week of the second semester; and a second May meeting is held on the Monday following commencement. It may also meet as often otherwise as necessary to transact business and communicate important information. Classes are not to be held at the time of faculty meetings and all faculty members are obliged to participate. Any classes scheduled for that time should be rescheduled for an open period during the week.

No major item of business is to be introduced to the faculty after the March meeting, unless the faculty agrees to the item.

FACULTY OFFICE HOURS– Academic Dean

Each faculty member should establish six or more hours per week that he/she will keep free insofar as possible and during which time he/she will be available in his/her office to students who seek help, guidance, information, etc. It is most helpful to the students if not all of the office hours occur on the same day of the week nor at the same time of day through the week.

FOREIGN STUDY– Academic Dean

A student may apply for permission to include foreign study in the curriculum leading to his/her degree. Application is made on petition forms obtained from the registrar. In addition to the usual programs of foreign study, students have the opportunity to participate in the overseas programs during May. The registrar and faculty members have information on foreign study programs.

HAWLEY ACADEMIC RESOURCE CENTER– Academic Dean

The Hawley Academic Resource Center is designed to assist students to improve their educational skills. Whenever an entrance test or a faculty member ascertains a student's use of English and/or mathematics is not proficient, he/she should refer the student's name with supporting documents to the resource center.

Students may, of course, enroll in the resource center of their own volition if they feel the need for improvement in study and communication skills.

INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD– Academic Dean

The Simpson College Institutional Review Board (IRB) was established in September, 2002. The board's mission is to ensure that research involving human participants at Simpson College is conducted in an ethical manner that minimizes risks to participants. Simpson College requires research projects covered by this policy to be approved by the IRB before the research begins. Projects are approved for a period of up to one year. Annual reports are required for projects lasting longer than one year. The IRB is expected to act on proposals in a timely manner. If concerns are raised during a review, the IRB will provide guidance to the investigator so the proposal can be revised and approved.

Not all research is covered by the IRB policy. The following research activities do not require IRB approval:

- 1) Research that does not utilize human participants
- 2) Research an instructor might conduct within his or her own classes to evaluate the effectiveness of various learning tools or methods of instruction
- 3) Research that is part of a regularly scheduled class and conducted in partial fulfillment of the class requirements*. If class research projects involve human participants, instructors may, at their option, choose to submit a proposal to the IRB for feedback.

*Please note that students engaged in research involving human participants as part of an honors or independent study course should submit an IRB proposal even though their research activity is part of a course.

The Simpson College IRB is composed of five members to be appointed by the Dean of Academic Affairs. Additional members may be added if the board is acting on a proposal that will be submitted for federal funding. Federal guidelines require at least one member from outside the college and one member from a non-science discipline.

The board utilizes a review plan that is consistent with federal guidelines for research involving human participants, Title 45, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 46. These guidelines permit the initial screening and classification proposals into three categories based on the level of risk to the potential participants.

Category 1:

Studies in Category 1 are judged to be of such low risk that further review is unnecessary. These projects are approved by the board member conducting the screening and an approval letter will be sent to the investigator. Estimated turnaround time three business days.

Category 2:

Studies in Category 2 are judged to provide no more than a minimal risk to the participants and are referred for an expedited review. The proposed study will be reviewed by a designated board member and returned to the board chair with a recommendation. If the evaluator recommends approval, the chair will send an approval letter to the investigator. In the unlikely event the evaluator does not recommend approval, the proposal will be submitted for a full review. Estimated turnaround time one week.

Category 3: Studies in Category 3 are judged to be of more than minimal risk to participants or involve special populations such as minors. Copies of the proposal will be distributed to all board members and the proposal will be discussed at a meeting of the full board. Investigators will be invited to attend the meeting to answer questions about their study. Following the meeting, the board chair will inform the investigator in writing of the board's decision. Estimated turnaround time is two weeks.

OVERLOAD CHARGE EXEMPTION– Academic Dean

The following activities do not create overload charges to the student account if the students' total semester enrollment already totals 16 semester hours: choir, band, jazz workshop, Madrigal, Simpson forum, freshman forum, Mgt 390-Small Business Inst., PolSci 130-Model U.N., Zenith, Simpsonian, Sequel, ESAF investment fund, journalism practicum, women's chorale, any Music 270 or 271 course, Psych 290 for R.A.s. (see section entitled Registration).

PETITIONS– Academic Dean

Student academic petitions are to be made out in triplicate and submitted to the registrar. One copy is to be retained by the registrar's office, a second copy is to be delivered to the student's advisor, and the third copy will be given to the student. Petitions are kept in the student's file in the office of the registrar.

RETIREMENT AND EMERITUS STATUS

At the end of the academic year in which the tenured faculty member of at least 55 years of age retires from full-time teaching, he/she normally shall be transferred to emeritus status provided that he/she has held a continuous full-time appointment at the college during the preceding ten years. Emeriti may be given additional contracts to teach part-time or to perform other part-time duties at the college. Professor emeriti are accorded the following privileges:

- Free admission to campus events to which regular faculty members are admitted free of charge;
- Use of college stationery and limited secretarial service;

- Office space when available;
- Use of athletic facilities in accordance with arrangements made for regular faculty members;
- Being kept on college email and mailing lists, including those for the alumni newsletter, the president's reports and other similar publications;
- Invitation to all college events to which all regular faculty members are invited (for example: fall and spring convocations, fall faculty dinner, spring commencement, homecoming events, and faculty picnic);
- Continuation of library privileges;
- Continuing to receive the following fringe benefits at cost: health insurance, dental and vision insurance, homeowners and automobile insurance;
- Tuition grant-in-aid for one's self, and for one's spouse and dependent children at the time of retirement;
- Privileges accorded to spouses of regular faculty members should also be accorded to spouses of emeriti.

Notification of appointment to emeritus status shall be sent to the retiring faculty member no later than the end of May during the final year of full-time employment, along with the same information concerning faculty personnel actions that is sent to the regular faculty.

SCHEDULE– Academic Dean

The registrar, assisted in the formation of the schedule by the heads of departments, has the final responsibility and authority for the academic schedule.

Normally, courses numbered from 100-199 are open only to freshmen.

Normally, courses numbered from 200-299 are open for sophomores and juniors.

Normally, courses numbered from 300-399 are limited to juniors and seniors.

Faculty may grant permission to outstanding freshmen and sophomores to take courses in the 300 group.

WITHDRAWAL FROM COLLEGE– Academic Dean

Students who wish to withdraw from the college, either during or at the end of any semester or term, should be referred to the office of the dean of students to initiate the process. Students are also urged to keep their records with the college active by filing a withdrawal in the registrar's office. When the withdrawal process has been completed, the registrar notifies the student's instructors, academic counselor, and appropriate administrative offices.

Students withdrawing from college prior to the completion of any final examinations receive the designation of "W" for each course in which they were enrolled. The "W" carries no credit or quality points.