May 9, 2016

Dear Student,

Welcome to the University of Dallas, Class of 2020! Your liberal education begins with your first semester, and we have begun planning it. You will have some choice about courses, but the Core informs your first two years here. Whatever your major, the Core Curriculum of the Constantin College of Liberal Arts is the foundation of your education. The Core is a series of courses focusing on the great works of the Western traditions, preparing you for Rome, your chosen major, and life. Although you are free to choose your major, of course, and will have freedom in how you fulfill some Core requirements, many Core classes are part of the education all of our students receive. The best education for the best is the best education for all. Included here is the UD Mission Statement and a description of the Core.

The purpose of this letter is to ask you to fill out the New Student Academic Questionnaire to help us put together your fall schedule. Please fill it out by June 1st. If you have difficulty with the form, please contact our Academic Success Adviser, Sharon Oster, at sost@udallas.edu or 972-721-5056. Please send us your AP scores as soon as possible.

Students are expected to take five classes each semester. All first-year students take Literary Tradition I in the fall and Literary Tradition II in the spring, Lit Trad I paired in the fall with either Philosophy and the Ethical Life or Understanding the Bible, Lit Trad II in the spring with either Phil & Eth or Under the Bible (whichever you did not take in the fall). We will include a foreign language, as well. If you want to study a foreign language you have already studied, you will need to take a language placement test; otherwise, you begin with the first course and need not do so. Students wishing to take Euclidean and Non-Euclidean Geometry or Statistics to fulfill their math requirement need not take a placement exam. Students in the sciences often take a math course in their first semester. If you want to take Calculus, you will need to take a math placement test. Students in the Gupta College of Business usually take two Business courses their first semester.

If necessary, please take your placement exams for a language or math by June 30th. For placement tests for a foreign language or mathematics, please contact Sharon Oster. The other courses will depend on your responses to the New Student Academic Questionnaire. So fill it out!

Your faculty adviser will help you fine-tune your schedule in August when you arrive here. If you have not declared a major, there is no need to worry. Many UD students arrive “undeclared,” and many change their major. For most majors, there is plenty of time to choose. Of course, if you are pre-med, you will need to begin on your major right away. If you are a seminarian and have questions, please contact the Director of Philosophy and Letters, Matthew Walz, at mwalz@udallas.edu. If you are a Pastoral Studies major, please contact the Director of the Undergraduate Program in the Neuhoff School of Ministry, Marti Jewell, at mjewell@udallas.edu. If you are a Business major, please contact Sheila Howard, Director of Undergraduate Business, at showard@udallas.edu or 972-721-5303. Otherwise, please address all scheduling questions to Sharon Oster or me.

We look forward to seeing you in August, and appreciate that you have chosen to pursue an education whose ends are wisdom, truth and virtue. You will not be disappointed.

Sincerely,
Scott Crider,
Associate Dean of Constantin College
crider@udallas.edu or 972-721-5218