Before Attending Orientation, Prepare for Success!

- Take the COMPASS test
- Register for an Advising & Registration session
- Identify any college success courses that interest you and you believe will be helpful
- Begin planning your schedule

At each Advising & Registration session, you will get assistance and direction to begin your college career and learn about the resources and services available to you at Madison College. Before attending a session, you are required to take an assessment test, known as COMPASS; consider signing up for College Success opportunities; and begin planning your schedule.

**COMPASS Testing:**

COMPASS stands for COMputer-adapted Placement Assessment and Support Services. It is the assessment tool used for students planning to take degree credit classes at Madison College. This computerized, un-timed test includes assessments in reading, writing and math. Most Madison College programs require students to also complete an essay as part of the English portion of the test. What makes COMPASS unique is that it adapts to your abilities—questions will increase in difficulty to determine your skill level.

**Save Money & Time:**
Taking the COMPASS is a required assessment that needs to be taken before you register for your classes. COMPASS scores indicate academic areas where you are strong, areas where you may need help and which courses would be a starting point for your educational career.

**Study Guides & Practice Tests:**
On the web site [http://matcmadison.edu/compass-information](http://matcmadison.edu/compass-information)

**How To Schedule Your Test:** [http://matcmadison.edu/testing-orientation-schedules](http://matcmadison.edu/testing-orientation-schedules)

**Advising & Registration Sessions—What to Expect**

Attending an Advising & Registration session has many benefits. One of the largest benefits is the hands on assistance you will receive from advisors with choosing your classes, financial aid staff to assist with paperwork, and your fellow students who will provide tours, take your picture for your ID, and assist with the registration process.

Each session is approximately a ½ day experience with the majority of the time spent in advising and registration.

Sample Schedule
Check In – obtain your One Card (College ID), view resource fair
Financial Aid Information Session (20 minutes)
College Success Course Opportunities Information Session (20 minutes)
Orientation to the College (what you need to know before you register for classes)
Advising and course selection
Technology assistance – how to register for classes
Registration and Check Out; optional tours, One Card stations open, resource fair

College Success Opportunities:

We realize college is different and can be challenging. So we have designed several different classes to give you the skills and experience to make the most out of your academic study. Class sections are limited so if you are interested, be sure to plan the courses in your schedule.

College Success: 20-890-200 (3-credit, college transfer course) This course is designed specifically to look at skills related to success in college and in life. You will learn many proven strategies for creating greater academic, professional and personal success.  
http://matcmadison.edu/student-success-courses

Learning to Learn Camp:* 20-890-200 (3-credit, alternative college success course)

This three-credit college transfer course is an alternative College Success format that meets one week in August followed by an 8-week fall seminar. *Ask an advisor to see the informational brochure for more information. http://Madisoncollege.edu/learning-learn-camp.

✓ Additional College Success Options
- Study Skills: (20-890-203) 1-credit, focuses specifically on skills such as note taking, time management, reading strategies necessary for success in college (8 week course)
- Career Development: (20-890-202) 1-credit, includes self-awareness activities and assessments to create a better understanding of the career development process.
- Study Skills for Online Learners: (20-890-203) 1-credit, assists online learners in developing and applying strategies that will allow them to be successful in an online classroom environment.
- Madison College 101: (20-890-220) 1-credit, is for students who are new to college. You will be introduced to academic and student support services and computer software while an instructor serves as a coach assisting you with navigating your first semester as a college student.

✓ Planning Your Schedule:

Madison College offers online schedule planning that will help you determine what classes you need to meet the academic requirements of your program and when you will take each class.
To make the best use of your time on Orientation day, we strongly suggest you use this tool to begin organizing your schedule before you attend.

**How do I find out what is required for my program?** Depending on your program, in order to maximize your time on campus and to assist with planning, your faculty may have already provided you with an outline of what is required. This information also is available online, here is how to begin to plan your course schedule.

1. Go to [www.matcmadison.edu](http://www.matcmadison.edu); At the top of the homepage, click on the link to myMadisonCollege. Enter your username and password and then click on “Student Center.”


3. Your advisement report will show your progress toward completion of your degree and, if available your COMPASS scores.

4. Scroll down to find the courses required for your program and when the courses are offered. To learn more about the details of each course, simply click on the course title.

5. To view the days and times the course is offered, click on “view class sections.” You can view the sections available by term. This is the Fall 2012-2013 term. You then have the option to add the course to your planner so you can more effectively plan your fall and subsequent semesters. You can then click on “Return to My Academic Requirements” to select an additional course.

**Good Scheduling Tips**

- Balance the types of courses you are taking. Schedule a balance of classes between those that require a lot of reading or writing and those, such as math, foreign language, or art that do not require as much.

- Unless necessary for your program, it is recommended that you only take one lab science course per semester and only one math course per semester. Diversifying your schedule in this way may assist with level of homework expected.

- Remember that full-time is considered 12 credits at Madison College. Part-time students must take a minimum of 6 credits. This is important for Financial Aid purposes.

- Be sure to check the location of your courses. Many courses are offered at multiple campuses in our district.

- If you are taking courses at multiple locations, allow enough time to travel from campus to campus. In the Madison area, shuttle buses go from Truax to the Downtown Education Center and from the West Campus to the Downtown Education Center.