Hello everyone!

This is Jerome Chang, the program counsellor for the Bachelor of Arts & Sciences (BAS). First of all, welcome to the BAS program! We’re already getting things ready for your arrival in the fall.

As a full-time professional staff member, it’s my job to help set you up for success in your academics. For some of you this will be course selection; for others it will be finding academic resources on campus; and still for others it may be referring you to personal support systems like the Wellness Centre or Career Services or Counselling Services.

I’ve already emailed or even chatted on the phone with some of you and your parents, and in every case it’s been great to connect! I’m already looking forward to the Fall semester!

Let’s cover some of the basics for course selection:

- Course selection for all new incoming students finishes on July 3rd
- Everyone (incoming AND upper year students) will be able to change their schedules one last time during the Add Period (August 17th to September 18th)
- 1.50 credits (3 courses) or less is considered part-time. 2.00 credits (4 courses) or higher is full time.
- Any questions about AP or IB credits need to go to Donna Reimer, our (fantastic) Admissions Counsellor for the BAS program - dreimer@registrar.uoguelph.ca
- All course selection is completed online through WebAdvisor. All instructions for using WebAdvisor are in your registration package with your University of Guelph email login and password (NEVER share this with anyone – the University will NEVER ask you for this. Do NOT fall for spammers seeking access to your email)
- There is a difference between courses and credits. Most courses are worth 0.50 credits. So when we talk about needing 20.00 credits to graduate with an Honours BAS degree….we’re looking at (approx.) 40 courses. There are some upper year courses that are worth 1.00 credits, but naturally these courses have twice as much work.

Ok, so now let’s answer some of the common questions that I’ve been getting lately…

Q: I’m in the BAS program and I’m not sure what courses to register for.
A: I’ve outlined what you should take in the registration handbook and I’ve also outlined it on our website. http://www.uoguelph.ca/bas/current-students.html Take a careful and thorough look at both resources and then let me know if you have any more questions.

Q: What do I do if I have conflicts between classes?
A: First of all, just so we’re clear…you cannot take 2 courses that are offered at the same time or overlap lab/lecture/seminar times. Unless you’re an X-Men or Hermione
Granger, you can’t be in two places at the same time. Your options are to see if there are other sections of the class that don’t conflict, or simply choose another course.

Q: What do I do if the course that I want is full?
A: You actually have a couple of options here
a) Keep an eye on it during the rest of course selection and again throughout the Add Period. With people constantly changing their schedules, a spot might just open up.
b) You can try contacting the instructor and seeing if there is a waiting list or if they will sign you into the course even though it’s full.
c) You can see if the course is offered in the winter semester and see about picking up a different course for the fall semester (You’ll notice on course descriptions there is usually F, W or S. That stands for Fall, Winter or Summer. Meaning that’s when the course should be offered)

Q: What science courses should I take?
A: Using the Science core chart, depending on what minor you’re thinking about pursuing, you can see what courses you should be taking.
http://www.uoguelph.ca/bas/current-students.html
You’ll see that generally, the courses are all pretty similar across the different minors, so don’t feel like you’re picking a minor that you have to stick to. You can still change your mind.

Q: What if I take 2 social science courses or 2 arts courses instead of one of each?
A: That’s completely up to you. The website and registration handbook suggest what is most commonly taken by first year students, but it’s just that...a suggestion. We suggest one of each to give you a chance to try out a course from each area. But that’s fine if you prefer to take 2 arts or 2 social sciences. It just means that somewhere in the future, you’ll eventually need to pick up the other 1.00 credits (2 courses) that you don’t take this time around.

Q: What if I want to take more science courses?
A: Same as above, it’s completely up to you. Go for it. It just means that eventually you’ll need to pick up the arts/social science credit that you didn’t take.

Q: What if I want to make changes to my schedule after July 3rd?
A: No worries. Many students change their minds. Everyone will be able to make changes to their Fall 2014 courses during the Add Period (August 17th to September 18th). During this time, WebAdvisor will re-open and you can make any changes you want.
Q: How can I reach you?
A: My phone number is 519.824.4120 extension 56385 or via email at bas@uoguelph.ca. It’s actually better if you email me, because when I answer your question I can include links to online resources. As well, this way you can refer back to the email if you forget anything. When emailing me, please make sure to do it through your University of Guelph email account (Gryph Mail) and try to remember to include your ID number.

** Make SURE to pay the $200 registration deposit to Student Financial Services by Friday, August 7th. If you do not pay this, you will be deregistered from all of your classes and/or restricted from picking up courses during the Add Period. This deposit ensures your registration for Fall 2015 courses.**

I know that some of you are getting pretty stressed out about all of this. That is totally okay...seriously. I appreciate how confusing this all can be. Others of you might be pretty relaxed right now. That’s ok too. Whatever you’re feeling…it’s normal.

Contact me if you have any questions and concerns and I’ll do my best to help and support you. Once again...CONGRATULATIONS on your acceptance to the University of Guelph community and welcome to the Bachelor of Arts & Sciences!