

<For 2023 Curriculum APS Students>

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Q1. Do I have to take a seminar class (Major Seminar, Graduation Research I, Graduation Research II)?

A. Yes. Under the 2023 curriculum, APS students are required to register for a seminar course (Major Seminar, Graduation Research I, Graduation Research II) from their 5th semester.

As such, you must apply for a seminar in your 4th semester. Please see the [Academic Information Website](#) for more information on how to apply.

Q2. If I fail (receive an F grade) in my seminar course (Major Seminar, Graduation Research I, Graduation Research II) do I have to take it again?

A. Even if you get an F grade in your 3rd year Major Seminar course or in Graduation Research I registered in your 7th semester, you cannot take the course again. Also, you are not required to earn a passing grade for these courses in order to graduate. However, you are required to earn credit for Graduation Research II in your 8th semester as a graduation requirement, so you will need to retake the class and earn a passing grade in order to graduate.

Q3. Do I still need to apply for a seminar if I am planning on taking a leave of absence in my 5th or 6th semester?

A. Yes. It is required. Even if you are planning on taking a leave of absence in your 5th or 6th semester, you must still apply for a seminar in your 4th semester. When you return to APU, you will be enrolled in the seminar you were successfully placed into based on the results of your 4th semester application.

Q4. Do I still need to apply for a seminar if I am planning on studying abroad in my 5th or 6th semester?

- A. If you are planning on studying abroad in your 5th and/or 6th semester you will not be registered for a seminar (Major Seminar) in the semester(s) you are away from APU. When you return to APU, you will be enrolled in the seminar you were successfully placed into based on the results of your 4th semester application, so you must be sure to apply. If you are planning on studying abroad in your 7th semester, you will still be registered for your seminar (Graduation Research I) while you are away from APU, and will take the class through remote instruction.

Q5. Can I change my advisor after I am placed in my seminar?

- A. In principle, you cannot change your advisor after your seminar placement is decided.

Q6. Can I register for a seminar under an advisor from a different Area of Study than the one I have registered?

- A. Yes, this is possible. Even if you register under an advisor from a different Area of Study, the credits will still count toward your registered Area of Study.

However, students registered for the IR Honors Program, as a graduation requirement of the program, must "Write a thesis (not graduation report) under the guidance of an instructor in the International Relations Area of Study, pass the screening, and earn an A or an A+ grade (earn an A or A+ grade for the "Graduation Thesis" course)," so we strongly recommend students in this program register for a seminar taught by an instructor in the International Relations Area of Study.