

Four Year Graduation Guarantee Fresno Pacific University Frequently Asked Questions

Can any student at Fresno Pacific take part in the 4YGG program?

The program is only offered to students who start as freshmen in the traditional undergraduate program. Transfer students, those coming in with units already completed from other schools, bring a mix of courses most of which usually transfer and are applicable to their chosen degree. Because we cannot anticipate what exactly they will bring, we cannot guarantee the time it will take them to graduate. Degree Completion students know what they will have to complete either in the major (which they will follow through with their cohort) or in the units they need in addition to the major. It is our commitment with all students to provide the courses and advising they need to complete their course of study in the quickest time possible, or at the pace that they choose.

The program was initiated in 2008-09, and is available for freshmen during this year.

What does the student have to do to be a part of the program?

The full outline of the program and its requirements are posted on the Fresno Pacific University website, www.fresno.edu/fouryearguarantee.asp. Basically freshmen need to sign up in their first year, take the courses that they are advised to take, pass them, complete at least 32 units per year of them, and generally keep up to date and moving forward. But see the full requirements.

What if I have to take a year off for some reason, does the guarantee still work for me?

In some cases it will work. We recognize that students may have medical reasons, military commitments, or other personal events that may make it necessary to take a year off of their studies. See the director of the program to discuss and request an extension.

How do I know what courses I need to take to graduate?

Your faculty mentor is your official advisor. Most students will have two mentors in the course of their work at Fresno Pacific, a freshman mentor and a major mentor. Your freshman mentor will help you get started. Tell her or him what major you are anticipating, and they will get you going. When you declare your major, you will move to the major mentor, who will work with you through the rest of your undergraduate career. They will let you know what you need to take, and in what sequence. Others, in other departments, may suggest that you need to take a particular class or two. Always check with your official faculty mentor, freshman or major, to confirm what you should do.

Where do I sign up for the Four Year Graduation Guarantee?

There are forms online, or go to the Academic Support Center (formerly Center for Writing and Learning) which administers the program. They also work with the mentors, and will send out hints, reminders, etc. to those in the program.

Can I take the courses I want to take, rather than what my mentor/adviser recommends and still be a part of the guarantee program?

Yes and no. In most college majors, there are courses that you must take, some you must take in the right sequence, and some that are completely left up to the choice of the student. Your mentor will indicate to you which you must take, and which are up to you. Students must take responsibility for their course of study, but to be a part of the program, there are some courses that have to be taken when and as advised. Your mentor will indicate which courses these are.

What if I only want to take courses on Tuesday and Thursday or on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Can I still be part of the 4YGG?

Maybe, but probably not. Your mentor will tell you what courses you need to take and which ones are optional. If you need to take a required course that is only offered on a particular day, and you need it that semester to move on through your degree, then you must take it on that day (or take another equivalent, transferrable course elsewhere and have it transferred in—see your mentor to make sure the course meets the requirements and is transferrable). Some courses can be taken at any time in your program. But some are only offered once per year, and in some cases for advanced/specialized courses every other year. And so you will need to take them when offered.

I am an athlete, what happens if my practice schedule conflicts with the courses I need to take? Or, I am a musician, what happens if my rehearsal schedule conflicts with the courses I need to take?

The Four Year Guarantee is offered on the belief that the first priority of students is their academic program and progress. It may be that you can find an alternative course, or take the required course in another semester. But there may be a few cases in which there is a conflict that can't be worked around. In that case, you will have to choose between athletic participation and the guarantee. See your coach or ensemble director to see if there is some accommodation that might be made. The same applies to students in all forms of co-curricular activities and performing groups.

How do I know when I should meet with my advisor?

One of the best ways to think about this is to plan to meet with your mentor regularly, so that you can benefit from his or her advice and keep them up-to-date with your thinking and plans. For this program you should meet with them as soon as the registration period opens, and then register as soon as you are allowed to. This helps you keep up with what you need to plan for, and ensures that you will get into the classes you need. (8/09)