HOW TO READ A DARS

DARS
Stands for “Degree Audit Reporting System”. It’s a degree audit, or checklist of requirements, individualized for each student.

ACROSS THE TOP
Lists the date printed, student’s name and ID number. The center lists the college, major or “what-if” major, and degree. The right corner lists the code number for that major and the catalog year of the DARS.

READ A DARS IN COLUMNS
Read it like a newspaper. The columns and pages are numbered.

DEMOGRAPHIC INFO
Includes current major, advisor, campus, academic standing (freshman, sophomore, etc.) and the number of hours attempted, earned, grade points and g.p.a.

UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS
Requirements consist of minimum credit hours, residency, and TIER 1, 2, and 3. College requirements will follow (College of Education, Business, etc.). These are requirements that all students have to meet regardless of major.
Indicators on the left side of each column. "NO" indicates a requirement is incomplete. "-" indicates a sub-requirement is incomplete. "OK" indicates it is complete. "+" indicates a sub-requirement is complete. If a student is registered for a class that counts in that area, it will be listed, but not marked as complete until a passing grade is recorded.

**NEEDS**
Indicates the number of hours, classes, or sub-requirements still needed to complete the requirement or sub-requirement. Does not reflect hours currently in progress.

**SELECT FROM or NOT FROM**
Provides a list of courses from which the student must choose. Students often have the option of choosing one class from a long list of options. Consult the catalog or on-line schedule for course descriptions. Students should not select courses from a "NOT FROM" list.
**COLLEGE REQUIREMENTS**

College of Arts and Sciences in this example. These are requirements usually in addition to University and Major requirements. College requirements will vary by catalog year and major. Please read DARS carefully and consult with academic advisor if you have questions.

**PAY ATTENTION TO THE NUMBERS**

Notice the NEEDS lists a number of hours AND sub-requirements. Students will want to pay attention to the number of sub-requirements.

**MAJOR REQUIREMENTS**

May include required g.p.a., hours, a number of sub-requirements, and additional notes.

**COLOR INDICATORS**

Color indicators help the student to see what needs addressed. Incomplete requirements are in red, complete in green, and in progress courses are listed in blue.
PLEASE REMEMBER!

- A student is required to see an advisor every semester! So students can receive help in learning to read a DARS.
- By understanding the terminology on the DARS, students can follow the directives of NO, NEEDS, SELECT FROM, and better understand how to complete degree requirements.
- Although not included in this example, at the end of every DARS is a legend which explains other symbols used, not explained here.
- DARS are individualized for each student. Students should follow a DARS printed only for themselves and no one else.
- DARS cannot be released to anyone other than the student and photo ID is required.
- DARS are available 24/7 to you online at https://webapps.ohio.edu/oasis/. You can even request a “what if” DARS.
- DARS are printed with the academic major currently on file with the University, such as “undecided”. Students wanting a DARS for another major can request a “What-if” DARS online, from the Hilltopper Advising Center, their advisor, or Student Services office.
- DARS will not provide pre-requisite courses. Students should consult an academic advisor or the academic catalog to determine course prerequisites. http://www.catalogs.ohio.edu/
- The DARS will list all the courses the student has transferred to or taken at OU with grades. Therefore, a DARS is like an unofficial transcript.

If you have additional questions about the DARS, classes, colleges, majors, requirements, or other academic advising questions, please contact the Hilltopper Advising Center.

The Hilltopper Advising Center is located in Rm. 270 of Bennett Hall.

Call (740) 774-7731 to schedule an appointment.