Part time student scheduling strategies and tips

The management programs recommended schedules and course sequencing are put together in full time student outline. Students who are not planning to attend Ohio University – Lancaster full time still need to put together a scheduling strategy that is based on the program requirements and recommended sequencing of classes. Some classes have “hard prerequisites” (can’t register unless you take a prerequisite) but many classes in your major have “soft prerequisites” within your major classes and non- major classes. The hard prerequisites have specific material where students must exhibit a level of mastery (passing grade) to be successful in the next class. Soft prerequisites have more general content that is important for students to be exposed to be successful. An example would having an English class or professional writing class before you take a class that requires written business reports. Another example is to have Econ 1030, a math class (i.e. statistics), and the marketing principles class before you take a upper division marketing class. Software classes taken before other classes that use software applications to complete assignments or projects are also important. Theory classes such as MGT 2000 Intro to Management before an application class SAM 3050 Supervision Management or BMT 1150 Quality before SAM 3010 Operations Management or BMT 1100 Management before BMT 2500 Human Resource Management are all examples of important soft prerequisites. So…the recommended course scheduling has both hard prerequisites and soft prerequisites that are intended to support your success as a management major and maximize your understanding of management theory and application of management practices. The following strategies and tips can be used if you can’t use the full time schedule of course offerings.

1. Strategies
2. Make sure you know the sequencing of your major classes…which ones are offered in fall semester and which ones in spring semester. There may be a second offering but the program commits to the offerings on the sequence schedule and additional offerings (including summer) are based on additional demand.
3. Use online classes or classes from other campuses (note fees are higher if the class is out of Athens) to “catch up” or pick up class that was missed in particular semester. Online classes may have a different scheduling pattern and OU-Chilli may also have a different scheduling pattern.
4. Take a mix of non-major (i.e. tier requirements) and major courses.
5. Some non-major required courses have their own scheduling patterns (i.e. statistics) and may not be offered both semesters so check the 3 year semester planner (on OU-L web site)
6. General Education courses (Tier requirements) are offered both semesters and with many options so use those to balance major classes and fill your desired schedule for credit hours and convenient days/times. Note that while both semesters have a long list of GE courses available certain courses may also have a schedule pattern (only fall or only spring).
7. Tips
8. Don’t just take a class because it fits your schedule (personal or work)…you have an investment in work, home, and your education so make them all work
9. Don’t take a class that is not on your program requirements without discussing with your advisor…more classes are taken that are not needed by students because they are not in contact with their advisors. Once you take the class it is too late.
10. Don’t take online classes just because they are convenient…no doubt that is an intended benefit…but don’t let the convenience disrupt your scheduling strategies.
11. Be ready for the differences in online offerings…much different in self-management, assignment support, etc.
12. If you are unsure about a soft prerequisite in your major contact your advisor/professor. You might be able to pass the class…but you may not be able to get the most out of it.