

What is Bearings?



Bearings is Bowdoin's online student and course information system. As a student, you will be able to view:

- **Grades.** At the end of each semester, the Office of the Registrar will send you an email stating when grades will be available for viewing in the Student Information side of **Bearings** under the Grade Report tab. You will not receive paper grade reports.
- **Degree Progress.** After grades are posted at the end of each semester, credits, distribution requirements, and AP credits are updated on students' degree progress pages in the Student Information side of **Bearings**. This is important information that you should use to track your progress toward your degree. Students are responsible for reading the *Bowdoin College Catalogue* and knowing the college's degree requirements. With this information and the resources available to you in **Bearings**, you will be well-equipped to monitor your progress.
- **Course Schedules.** Course schedules are initially posted in the Student Information side of **Bearings** after Phase I registration and updated after Phase II registration and the add/drop period. Students are responsible for reviewing their course schedules periodically during each semester to ensure that their courses are recorded accurately. Students must come to the Office of the Registrar to make adjustments and corrections to their schedules within the time periods allotted.
- **Course Information.** **Bearings** also provides online access to course information. You may search courses being offered in the current or upcoming semesters by title, instructor, department, day and time, and division or distribution designation. Course information may be accessed in the Course Finder side of **Bearings**.
- **Status.** The status screen in the Student Information side of **Bearings** will display your official status for each semester. For example, if you are expected to be enrolled in courses on campus, the screen should display "HERE/MATRIC" in the Description column and "Y" in the Active column for the current semester. If your status for an upcoming semester shows that you will not be actively on campus (perhaps you will be studying abroad, or you will be on leave), you will not be able to register for courses for that semester.
- **Academic Record.** On the Academic Record screen in the Student Information side of **Bearings**, you will see all of the courses you have taken and all of the grades you have earned.

Frequently Asked Questions About Bearings

How do I access Bearings?

Go to <http://bearings.bowdoin.edu>

Office of the Registrar

4500 College Station • Brunswick • Maine 04011-8436 • Tel 207.725.3521 • Fax 207.725.3338 • registrar@bowdoin.edu

Click on “Course Finder” to search for course information. Click on “Student Information” to log in and view six screens of information—Student Biographical, Academic Record, Status, Degree Progress, Grade Report, and Class Schedule—represented by the six tabs across the top. Your username and password are the same as the ones you use for email. Become familiar with these screens, and check them regularly to keep track of credits posted and requirements met. You will use the Grade Report page to access your grades at the end of each semester. Check the Class Schedule page regularly to be sure your course registration records are accurate.

Who do I call if I have problems?

If you have problems logging into **Bearings**, contact the student helpdesk at x5050. If you have problems or questions about your actual records (credits, course schedule, grades, etc.) contact the Office of the Registrar at registrar@bowdoin.edu or come by our office in the Moulton Union.

Who else can view this information?

Different people on campus have different levels of access to **Bearings**. For example, your Advisor and Dean have access to your academic information as well as biographical information. Others on campus, such as the Bursar, Director of Residential Life, and faculty have only limited access to biographical information. Access to **Bearings** is granted by the Registrar.

This system gives you access to confidential information about YOU. Guard your personal information! Remember to log out of **Bearings** before you leave a computer. Do not give your password to other people.

Why is **Bearings** unavailable at certain times of the day?

Updates to **Bearings** occur nightly. In order for these updates to occur, the system must be down for a period of time. **Bearings** is unavailable between the hours of 2:00 A.M. and 6:00 A.M.

*Get your Bearings at
bearings.bowdoin.edu*

