

How the “Tree” Assigns Requested Courses

Students should be familiar with the “Tree” structure or have the Registration Worksheet available in order to better understand how the system works.

The “Tree” assigns courses that have been requested via WebSTEP using random numbers within each class.

By student within each class. Each student is assigned a random number within his/her class to determine the order in which course assignments will be made. The program then begins with the senior class and assigns each student a first-choice course from his/her "tree" structure (the branching diagram on which variations of a student's course schedule are listed), prioritizing according to the prescribed random numbering.

By class starting with seniors, one at a time. Once each senior has one course, then each junior is assigned a first-choice course, then each sophomore, and then each first-year student until everyone in the entire student body has one course. The program then goes back and assigns each senior a second course, then each junior, and so on until each student has as many hours as he/she requested or until there are no longer any courses in the student's tree structure available. This method of assigning courses results in all students being placed in several courses before all the members of any one class (e.g., seniors) have complete schedules.

Preregistered courses. Preregistered courses automatically count as a student's top choices. For example, if a student is preregistered for two classes, the computer will treat those classes as the student's 1st and 2nd choices and won't begin assigning choices from the tree structure until its third pass through the student body. Preregistered courses should not be entered into the Tree, but they should be included in the desired number of hours. When offered, preregistration is allowed only for courses in a student's major department and by permission of the department chair.

