Overall, despite any initial difficulties which they might have encountered, BDIC students have been quite successful in enrolling in their choice of courses. We have found this to be true even in those departments in which courses are in very high demand and/or restricted. If students initially experience difficulties registering through SPIRE for a certain course, they are often able to get permission to enroll from the appropriate professor by having him/her sign a Course Eligibility Override form, or following whatever alternative procedure the relevant department has developed. In general, the most effective strategies for doing so involve:

**PERSONAL DIPLOMACY:** This is especially successful when students speak to the professor one semester prior to that in which the course is offered (not during the Add/Drop or Pre-Registration periods when professors are besieged). As more than one student has remarked, a personal meeting to explain how the content of the course is critical to one’s BDIC concentration can be quite effective. Personal meetings usually yield the best results; e-mailing is discouraged, since messages from un-recognized senders are often ignored.

**PERSISTENCE (ENDURANCE):** Students who are unable to enroll in a class during Pre-Registration, but who attend each class during Add/Drop period often find that by the end, the ranks of those with patience has thinned out and the professor is impressed by their seriousness of purpose and obvious interest in the class.

**EARNEST ENTHUSIASM.** Professors typically dislike feeling pressured or pestered when they are approached by a student who is asking for a favor or exception to be made. They respond best to someone who expresses a genuine interest in and enthusiasm for the course content.

- Remember that it is the student who is ultimately responsible for enrolling in classes. Also be advised that there is NO GUARANTEE that students will be able to enroll in the exact set of classes desired, so we encourage you to be thoughtful in selecting alternate courses.

In addition to personal diplomacy, students confronted with enrollment difficulties should be flexible and consider trying the following alternatives:

- another relevant course in the same department.
- another relevant course in the same department at one of the other colleges. Students should not rely on the availability of 5-college courses, however, since they are almost always filled to capacity.
- another course in a different department which is related to their concentration.
- a graduate level course, if they have the appropriate background. (Check with the professor.) Remember, 500-level courses are open to graduates and undergraduates; 600-level and above are primarily for graduate student