

BUILD-YOUR-OWN SEMESTER KIT

Choose the shape of the semester before you choose everything inside it.

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1. Semester snapshot

Semester / season: _____

My semester theme or question: _____

What is actually true about my capacity?

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ I need a light semester | ☐ I can manage a medium load | ☐ I want a stretch semester |
| ☐ I need protected recovery time | ☐ I need lots of novelty | ☐ I need predictable structure |

2. Pick your courses

Choose what you genuinely want to learn, not only what sounds impressive.

Course / subject	Why I want it	Format	Keep?
			☐
			☐
			☐
			☐
			☐

My course-selection rules

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ At least one thing I am wildly curious about | ☐ No more than ____ high-demand courses |
| ☐ At least one course with a flexible format | ☐ One thing I am allowed to drop |

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Projects and field trips count as real learning.

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3. Choose your semester projects

Pick projects that create something, answer something, practice something, or make your life more interesting.

PROJECT 1

What am I making / investigating? _____

Why does this matter to me? _____

Smallest finished version: _____

☐ solo ☐ with people ☐ public

PROJECT 2

What am I making / investigating? _____

Why does this matter to me? _____

Smallest finished version: _____

☐ solo ☐ with people ☐ public

PROJECT 3

What am I making / investigating? _____

Why does this matter to me? _____

Smallest finished version: _____

☐ solo ☐ with people ☐ public

4. Plan field trips

A field trip can be a museum, neighborhood, store, archive, park, lecture, studio, lab, or weird errand.

Place / experience	What I want to notice	When	Cost

Learning can leave the house.

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Office hours are for questions, body doubling, rabbit holes, and being witnessed.

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5. Build your office hours

Who or what do I want regular access to this semester?

Person / group	Purpose	Rhythm	How I join

Office-hour permissions

- ☐ I can attend without a polished question
- ☐ I can use the time to body double
- ☐ I can bring a half-formed idea
- ☐ I can miss a week and return

6. Invent absurd electives

An absurd elective is a tiny self-made class that exists because you want it to exist. It can be silly, niche, useless, extremely specific, or secretly life-changing.

Elective 1: _____ Final exam: _____
I know I passed when: _____

Elective 2: _____ Final exam: _____
I know I passed when: _____

Elective 3: _____ Final exam: _____
I know I passed when: _____

Elective 4: _____ Final exam: _____
I know I passed when: _____

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Turn the interesting pile into an actual semester.

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7. Make the semester map

Place the pieces. Protect the boring logistical parts too.

Week / month	Courses	Projects	Trips + office hours

8. Check the load before you commit

- ☐ There is room for sleep, meals, appointments, work, and recovery.
- ☐ I know which items are optional.
- ☐ I have at least one low-effort or asynchronous option.
- ☐ The semester contains joy, not only obligations.
- ☐ I have not scheduled every hour of my future self's life.

FINAL SEMESTER BUILD

The three things I most want this semester to contain:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

My semester rule

When the plan stops fitting my actual life, I am allowed to revise the plan.

Signed by me: _____ Date: _____