

Words of Wisdom for the Undeclared Student

3 Common Misperceptions

1. I'll just get my general education courses out of the way first.

Hold on! While you may be fulfilling certain goals and categories, you will not be sampling courses in majors that may interest you. Just as declared students take a major course and sometimes learn that their major really isn't for them, undeclared students must actively explore major interests through coursework, participation in a cocurricular activity, and from reading the Undergraduate Catalog for program descriptions and requirements. Ask someone working in the field, "How did you get where you are today?" Visiting Career Services and the Advising Center is also helpful and informative. So take general education requirements, but take a class that may hook you in. **Don't be passive in pursuing a major!**

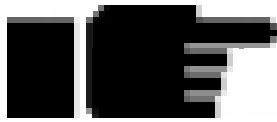


Psst! Many declared students are fibbing to you. They're not sure what they want to do, either!

2. Picking a major and a career is pretty much the same thing.

"Choosing a major does not limit you to only one career choice, and choosing a career does not limit you to only one major." Good advice, especially when trying to understand what a college degree is all about. **The best major is the one you like and the one you do well in.** When you do well and enjoy the work, you lay the groundwork for success.

Many students who wish to be lawyers assume that political science is the way to go. That's one path to law school, but the reality is that law schools are filled with students of many majors. And while students might shy away from a major in the arts and humanities (*"What can you do with a degree in English?"*) students who earn degrees in history, theater and sociology hold jobs in business, human resources, teaching, the military and other fields.



Only YOU (not your parents or friends) can choose the major that works for you and makes you happy.

3. The major I choose will determine my career for life.

Nope. While many jobs exist today, we cannot predict the range of occupations years from now. So that you can adjust as employers' needs change, you will benefit from developing skills in writing, speaking, reasoning, and analyzing. General education courses AND major courses help you improve in these areas, so **the major you choose today will not limit you tomorrow.**



Remember! Jobs and job security come from the qualities and talents of the person, not necessarily the major.

Questions? Visit Mr. Joe McCaul in the Advising Center in CASA, call x4510, or email us at advising@frc.mass.edu