



Undecided

at Benedictine University

If you are undecided about a major, it may be because:

- You want to pursue a field of study that will prepare you for a career which will give you financial stability and provide personal fulfillment, but you have not yet identified a particular career path that meets those objectives.
- You haven't completely evaluated your own potential or interests.
- You think you know what major you want to pursue, but are hesitant to formally declare it because you are uncertain about career opportunities or your academic abilities at the college level.
- You are not familiar with the many fields of study available or their connections to prospective careers.

Benedictine University can help you.

At Benedictine University, you will find a variety of opportunities to broaden your view of life, your interests and abilities and the world of work that will influence the direction you decide to take in your academic study and career. Some of your broadening will occur as you speak with your instructors, seek the views of other students and engage in liberal education studies. Some of it will come from your participation in programs such as extracurricular activities, seminars, student clubs, concerts and other opportunities. These experiences will provide you with a better vantage point to view life and yourself.

The services provided by your academic advisor, staff members of the Office of Career Development and Student Success Center will have a more direct bearing on your choice of major and career. Their purpose is to offer you assistance and support in your decisions and in your development as a student throughout your years at the University.

Freshman Advising

All new freshmen are assigned an academic advisor from the New Student Advising Center. Your advisor will help you prepare your academic course schedules and assess your academic progress and adjustment to college life. Advisors are also available to discuss selection of your major and career-related issues. If you still remain undecided about your major by the second semester of your freshman year, you will then be advised within the Student Success Center. Consultation with staff members in the Office of Career Development is recommended so that you are more certain about the area of study you select.

What courses should I take while undecided?

Undecided students are advised to take general education courses that are required for all majors. You should also take some courses in a field of interest during this time. If you are considering a teaching certification, you should select Core elective courses carefully. Your advisor and career counselor will help you plan your course of study.

How long can I remain undecided?

You should choose a major by the end of your sophomore year. Students are advised to enroll in one or more introductory or exploratory courses in a major while undecided to help with their decision. Declaration of a major or a change of major after that time may require additional semesters of study and/or summer school.

Career Development

Career counseling involves individual and group consultations with a professional staff member to discuss your interests, aptitudes, work values and skills, and help you identify occupational areas to explore. Your career counselor will also help you explore other sources of information about these occupations.

Assessment

The Office of Career Development offers interest inventories and other assessment instruments to help you discover your interests, skills, abilities and the occupational areas that may best suit you. Students are encouraged to use Focus II, a computerized career guidance program designed to help students discover career options through understanding themselves, occupation descriptions and decision making.

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Career Resource Library

In the Career Resource Library, you will find literature and electronic resources to assist you in developing your academic and career goals. The library contains a variety of resources, including graduate and professional study guides and information on careers, career planning, employers, scholarships and internships.

Career information programs

Various presentations are offered throughout the year to encourage students to explore the nature of different careers and to give them an opportunity for group discussion.

Alumni career resource network

A number of Benedictine graduates volunteer their time to serve in a network of professionals whom you may contact for firsthand career information. Connections with University alumni can be made through the Office of Alumni Development or the Career Development Center.

Internship and part-time employment

A job or internship experience may give you new perspectives on a career and might be helpful in your career decision-making process. Information on internship and part-time employment is available through the Office of Career Development.

Employment after graduation

Individual consultation is available for you if you are interested in post-graduation employment, or if you are planning to attend graduate school and need help exploring options. Job search skills workshops and resume referral services are provided.

Recommended Program for an undecided student:

Freshman

(First and Second Semester)

Writing Colloquium (WRIT 101)
Basic Speech (SPCH 110)
Mathematics (MATH 105, 110 or another level,
based on placement score)
Psychology (PSYC 100) or Sociology (SOCL 100)
Artistic and Creative (QCA) course

Research Writing (WRIT 102)
Additional Mathematics (if necessary or desired)
Social Scientific II: Political,
Global and Economic Systems (QPE)
Religions/Theological (QRT) course*
Exploratory course

Sophomore

(First and Second Semester)

Exploratory course
Computational, Mathematical and Analytical (QCM)
Philosophical (QPL) course
Life Scientific (QLS) course
Literary and Rhetorical (QLR) course*

Historical (QHT) course
Exploratory or elective course in a major field
Physical Scientific (QPS) course
Catholic and Benedictine Intellectual Traditions (IDS 201)

Exploratory course suggestions for:

Students interested in communications or social sciences
COMM 150, CJUS 260, PSYC or SOCL 200-level elective

Students interested in business
ACCT 111, ECON 101

Students interested in teaching
EDUC 205, EDUC 210

*Select a Mode of Inquiry-approved course with a multicultural emphasis if teaching may be of interest.