

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 not only give you financial stability but also provide personal fulfillment.
- You haven't completely evaluated your own potential or interests.
- You think you know what major you want but are hesitant to pursue 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 and the various areas in which a given field can be pursued.

How Benedictine University can help you

At Benedictine University, you will find a variety of opportunities to broaden your view of life, yourself and the world of work, all of which 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 depend on your willingness to participate in programs such as extracurricular activities, seminars, student clubs, concerts and other opportunities. These experiences will provide you with a better vantage point from which to view life and yourself.

Of more direct bearing on your choice of a major and career are the services provided by your academic advisor, by staff members of the Office of Career Development and in the Student Success Center. 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 end of your freshman year, you will then be advised within the Student Success Center. Consultation with staff members of the Office of Career Development is recommended so that you are more sure about the area of study you select.

What courses should I take while undecided?

Undecided students are advised to take "skill" courses and "core" 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 teaching certification, you should select core elective courses carefully. Your advisor and career counselor will help you plan your course of study.

Recommended Program for an undecided student:

Freshman

(First and Second Semester)

Writing Colloquium (WRIT 101)
Speech Communication (SPCH S110)
Mathematics (MATH 105 or 110, based on placement score)
Psychology (PSYC 100) or Sociology (SOCL 100)
Fine Arts/Music core elective
Research Writing (WRIT S102)
Additional Mathematics (if necessary or desired)
Political Science/Anthropology core elective
Religious Studies/Theology core elective*
Exploratory course or Natural Science core elective

Sophomore

(First and Second Semester)

Cultural Heritage (HUMN 220 and 230)
Philosophy core elective
Life Science/Physical Science core elective
Literature core elective*
Business/Economics core elective
Exploratory or elective course in a major field

Other suggestions

- Education 200, 205, 215 for students interested in teaching certification
- Additional mathematics (MATH 111 or 115), as appropriate for major being considered
- Modern Language, as appropriate for major being considered

*select a core approved course with a multicultural emphasis if teaching may be of interest.

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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.

Focus II

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.

Career Resource Library

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

AlumNet - Alumni career resource network

A number of Benedictine graduates volunteer their time to serve in a network of professionals whom you may contact for first-hand career information. This ALUMNET is provided by the Alumni Office.

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 service are provided.