Undeclared and Exploring

Not sure what major to choose? You’re not alone. 75% of American college students change their major at least once. In three of UMD’s colleges, you don’t even have to declare a major until you have 45 credits (around the fall of your sophomore year.)

Students who enter college without declaring a major usually fall into three categories:

- They are considering more than one major and want to explore further before declaring.
- They have many interests and don’t want to lose options.
- They have no specific major in mind and want help in exploring.

Why UMD

Many resources are available to you as you decide on a major:

- Professional Advisors
- UMD Career and Internship Services [1]
- UMD faculty
- Graduation Planner [2]
- Major/Minor Expo, Job and Internship Fair, and other events [3]

Start by choosing a college or school:

College of Liberal Arts

Students who choose the College of Liberal Arts are looking for a broad and diverse education. You’ll get a high-quality education while faculty and staff help you explore your strengths and interests.

Undeclared students [4] in CLA work with professional advisors who specialize in helping undeclared first-year students and sophomores. Advisors can help you explore your interests while you fulfill your Liberal Education requirements.

College of Education and Human Services Professions

Students in the College of Education and Human Service Professions have a unique
common thread: they all are striving to make a difference in the lives of others. If this sounds like you, but you are unsure of a major, start your journey as an undeclared student in CEHSP. You and your academic advisor will use strengths-based, proactive advising to learn about your talents. Together, you will explore majors that will incorporate those talents.

Swenson College of Science and Engineering

Undeclared students who apply to Swenson College of Science and Engineering typically know they are interested in math and science and they did well in these subjects in high school. Undeclared students in SCSE are assigned a professional advisor who will work with the student’s individual interests, goals, values, and skills.

Labovitz School of Business and Economics

All Labovitz School of Business and Economics students start out as pre-major status. Students enroll in LSBE because they are interested in accounting or one of the various business fields. While completing pre-major requirements, students aren't typically certain about which major to choose. Academic advisors will help you figure out which major to select.

School of Fine Arts

Students who choose the School of Fine Arts generally know they are interested in art and design, music, theatre, or a combination of these. SFA students choose a major when they apply, but most also have a minor or second major. Advisors are available to work with you if you haven't decided.

Links
[4] https://cla.d.umn.edu/students/academicadvising
[5] https://cehsp.d.umn.edu/resources/students/advising-academic-services/undeclared-exploring