

California State University, Long Beach
ACADEMIC ADVISING CENTER
Division of Academic Affairs

www.csulb.edu/centers/advising

Academic Services - 124

(562) 985-4837

UNDECIDED STUDENTS CAN MAKE GOOD CHOICES

Freshmen Action Plan for Undeclared Majors

You have time to explore various majors and still work toward graduation. For timely completion of the requirements for a bachelor's degree the University requires students to declare a major by the time 60 baccalaureate units are completed – roughly the beginning of the junior year. Students who have not declared a major by this time will be not permitted to register in classes until a major is declared. Exploration for potential majors includes your University 100 course.

- ***Don't delay.*** You must choose a major by the time you have reached 60 baccalaureate units. Help is available from campus experts. The Career Development Center, Brotman Hall-250, (562) 985-4151, offers a series of interactive computer based interest/skills assessment tests known as SIGI. They also provide workshops that deal with choosing majors. Additional assessment tests and other assistance is also available from the center for Counseling and Psychological Services, Brotman Hall-226, (562) 985-4151.
- ***Take courses that can help you decide.*** Choose from GE courses, elective courses, major introductory courses and Educational Psychology 191 (Career and Personal Exploration).
- ***Concentrate on a major.*** Concentrating on a major is quite different than concentrating on a career. Many students are undeclared because they can't decide on a career. Although career decisions need to be made early for majors in engineering, accounting, some sciences, nursing, and other specialized or applied majors, for most majors, career decisions can be postponed. For example, many careers in various industries, businesses, banking, governmental agencies, and in other fields, do not require specific majors. Such organizations hire educated people who are well rounded in the liberal arts, write and speak well, have good interpersonal, self-management, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills. Employees learn the technical job-related skills while "on the job."
- Pre-majors, students attempting to enter an impacted major, must complete the specified department admission requirements to the major by the time 60 baccalaureate units are completed as well.
- ***Read your University Catalog.*** The Undergraduate Program section of the Catalog lists all baccalaureate degrees in alphabetical order. In addition, you will find information about certificates, minors, and General Education (GE) requirements.
- ***Use the results of your interest tests.*** They will guide you as you study the majors listed in the University Catalog. For example, if you enjoy teaching or helping others, majors in the College of Liberal Arts may be of special interest to you.

- ***Make lists of interesting majors.*** Study the requirements for each one. Some will be more appealing to you than others. You may have already taken GE courses that also appear as requirements for particular majors. Did you enjoy these courses? Were they stimulating and interesting? If so, you can have even more insight into majors that will be right for you. In addition, make appointments with undergraduate advisors in departments of interest. They can give you first-hand information.
- ***Choose a major.*** As a sophomore you need to make a decision very soon about your major. However, it's better to choose the right major a little late than to be dissatisfied with an early decision. It is also far better to change majors, even as juniors, than to continue in a major in which you are unhappy. Your exploration, which can include interests tests, vocational counseling, study of available CSULB majors, and contact with undergraduate advisors, should enable you to choose a major now.
- ***Remember, for most majors there is little correlation between a college major and a career.*** English majors are lawyers and CEOs. Anthropology majors are bank managers and college administrators. Psychology majors are personnel managers and airline pilots. The trick to a satisfactory college experience is to choose a major you will enjoy, one in which you can excel.
- ***Explore careers.*** Don't panic about your career indecision. The Career Development Center can assist you with general career information. The center for Counseling and Psychological Services and the Career Development Center offer career exploration workshops. Undergraduate advisors in the major departments are another good resource to consider. Once you have good information, you can interview people in the career fields in which you have an interest. In addition, you can volunteer, intern, or find entry-level part-time employment in interesting career fields. You do have time to decide on a career.

College of the Arts, LIBE-115, (562) 985-4364

College of Business Administration, CBA-200, (562) 985-5306

College of Education, ED1-005, (562) 985-1609

College of Engineering, ECS-610, (562) 985-5121

College of Health and Human Services, ET-200, (562) 985-4194

College of Liberal Arts, MHB-214, (562) 985-5381

College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, FO5-104, (562) 985-4707

The Academic Advising Center is here to help you!

Don't forget to keep in touch with advisors in the Academic Advising Center, AS-124. The Academic Advising Center is the home base and signature authority for undeclared students. Please bring any University forms or documents requiring department signature to us.

Marilee Samuelson, Director
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Academic Advising Center