Not Ready to Choose a Major?

University Studies Program

A great place to start!

www.udel.edu
What Does Undeclared Mean?

- Students who enter college without applying to a specific major are considered undeclared students.

- Titles for these students vary from university to university and include designations such as *Exploratory Students*, *Undeclared Students*, *Open Students*, *Undecided Students*, *Students-in-Transition*. UD refers to students without declared majors as *University Studies Students*. 
“Undeclared” Myths

- Students who are undeclared are poor decision-makers and lack direction.
- Undeclared students enter college with lower scores and are less academically successful.
- Many majors will not accept undeclared students.
- Undeclared students cannot finish in four years because they take so many random courses.
“Undeclared” Realities

*Students who are undeclared are poor decision-makers and lack direction.*

- UST students have a variety of interests and utilize the freshman year to explore their academic options.

- University Studies is a very popular choice among incoming freshmen.
“Undeclared” Realities

Undeclared students enter with lower scores and are less academically prepared.

- UST students are academically talented and have a wide variety of skills and interests.

- Many UST students enter with AP, IB, or other transfer credits that may be applied to their curriculum requirements.

- UST students are also well represented in the UD Honors Program.
“Undeclared” Realities

Many majors will not accept undeclared students.

- UST students are accepted into every major at the university including those majors deemed “competitive”.

- Approximately 85% of majors at UD are open to all students in satisfactory academic standing.
“Undeclared” Realities

Undeclared students cannot finish in four years because they take so many random courses.

- The UD curriculum provides the flexibility to explore major options while meeting general requirements.

- Professional advisors are available to help students choose appropriate classes that will count in a variety of ways so graduation can be achieved within four years.
How Many Students Enter College Undeclared?

- Nationally, 21.3% of students enter universities without a major.
- Another 50-75% of students will change their major at least once throughout their university careers.
- Among all interest areas undeclared programs have the highest percentage of incoming students nationwide.
- In Fall 2015, 20% of incoming freshmen entered the University of Delaware as (undeclared) University Studies Program students.
Majors

- There are more than 145 majors available at the University of Delaware within the 7 colleges.

- Students can choose the type of academic plan that suits them:
  - Single major
  - Major with a minor(s)
  - Double major
  - Interdepartmental Major
  - Dual Degree
College Major?

- English
- Wildlife Conservation
- Theater
- History

Vanessa Serrao, 1998
Discovery Channel Documentary Film Director
University of Delaware
College Major?

Exercise Physiology
Accounting/Management
Political Science
Geology

Joe Flacco, 2008
Quarterback Ravens
University of Delaware
College Major?

Lauren Stein, 1997
Manager NBC Primetime Series
University of Delaware

English
Criminal Justice
Communication
Theater
What is the University Studies Program?

- The mission of the University Studies Program is to enhance and support the educational experiences of matriculated students who do not have a declared major and who have a wide variety of interests entering the University of Delaware.

- The University Studies Program ensures that students are given the opportunity to explore the many majors available to them before they choose their academic path.
Types of University Studies Students

- Exploring
- Enhancing
- Examining
Interest Areas

- Arts & Humanities
- Business
- Elementary & Early Childhood Education
- Environmental Studies
- Life & Health Sciences
- Physical & Applied Sciences
- Social Sciences
- Undeclared
### Freshman Sample Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Business</th>
<th>Social Sciences Humansities</th>
<th>Sciences</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MATH 221</td>
<td>MATH 114 or higher</td>
<td>MATH 221 or MATH 241</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 151</td>
<td>ENGL 110</td>
<td>Science Course or ENGL 110</td>
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<tr>
<td>University Breadth (ex. SOCI 201)</td>
<td>University Breadth (ex. SOCI 201)</td>
<td>University Breadth (ex. SOCI 201)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science Course</td>
<td>Science Course or Foreign Language</td>
<td>Science Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Year Seminar</td>
<td>First Year Seminar</td>
<td>First Year Seminar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SkilMod Course</td>
<td>SkilMod Course</td>
<td>SkilMod Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Credits: 14-15</td>
<td>Total Credits: 14-15</td>
<td>Total Credits: 15-16</td>
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</tbody>
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University Studies Program Services

- Individualized Academic Advisement
- Academic Planning
- Workshops/Courses
- Collaborative Programming

www.udel.edu
Individual Academic Advising

- Every student is assigned a professional academic advisor who meets with the student as often as they elect and at least once per semester.

- Advising appointments focus on student development, course selection, and major exploration.
Academic Planning

- Students are invited to meet with advisors to set up an individual academic plan for their college careers.

- Topics include:
  - Personal reflection and assessment;
  - Short-term and long-term goal setting; and
  - Ways to enhance the college experience through discovery learning opportunities such as Study Abroad, Undergraduate Research, Service Learning, or Internships.
Workshops/Courses

- Academic Workshops offered by our professional advisors, give students practical information and help them adapt to academic policies and the UD curriculum.

- The UST Spring Seminar, “Exploring Your Academic Path” combines self-exploration, academic resources, engaging discussions and activities to provide students with a greater understanding of the components that may lead to their success academically and professionally.
Throughout the year several programs are often offered in conjunction with other departments on campus. Programs are designed to help students enhance their college experience and/or gain information about what major is right for them.
UST Students Who Declared in each College 2014-2015

- College of Agriculture & Natural Resources: 3%
- College of Arts & Sciences: 42%
- Alfred Lerner College of Business & Economics: 31%
- College of Engineering: 5%
- College of Education & Human Development: 4%
- College of Health Sciences: 13%
- College of Earth, Ocean, & Environment: 2%
University Studies Program Staff

- Dr. Avron Abraham, Director
- Academic Advisors
  - Adrian McCleary
  - Courtney McGinnis
  - Margie Kiter-Edwards
  - Sharon Goldstein
  - Lysbet Murray
  - Michael McClay
  - Kathryn Goldman
- Karen Seymour, Administrative Assistant
What’s Next?

- “Explore a Second Option” to learn more about the vast academic programs UD has to offer.

- If you know what you would like to major in – apply to the major and explore it. If it isn’t for you, you can always change to UST!

- If you don’t know, you can apply directly to the University Studies Program and begin your UD career exploring possibilities with the ultimate goal of declaring a major by the end of your sophomore year.