It’s all about Pre-major and Academic Planning

OFFICE OF Pre-Professional Programs
OFFICE OF Pre-Major and Academic Planning

Journey of self-discovery

It takes time to choose what you really want to study and what you want to do in your life. The value of a university education lies in helping you discover the answers that are right for you.

At BGSU, we consider education a journey toward self-discovery. Through the Deciding Student Program, you will find resources to help you explore your major options and achieve timely graduation.

It is quite common to be undecided about a major or career. About 1,000 students are admitted to BGSU each year as undecided. Waiting to declare a major can be a very smart decision. It is important to remember two things:

1. You are not behind your peers if you enter BGSU as an undecided student.
2. It is completely normal to be unsure about your major and career options.

In the Deciding Student Program, you will earn credit for core classes as you explore major options.

You may know which college you want to study in, but not your major. Now what?

Each of the seven colleges at BGSU have professional advisors who will assist you in making your decision. Many of the BGSU majors have introductory courses that are open to deciding students. For example, if you have an interest in journalism, you can sign up for JOUR 1000; Introduction to Journalism in a Democratic Society.

Here are your options:

• If you are considering many majors or planning to explore your options, the Deciding Student Program in the Office of Pre-Major and Academic Planning is an excellent choice. You will have a dedicated professional advisor who will help you research more than 150 different major options while staying on track.

• If you know what college or area of study you are interested in, you can enter a specific college as “undecided” and declare a major later after you have explored the opportunities. For example, you may know you want to be a teacher, but you are not sure what subject or grade level you want to teach. You would enter the College of Education and Human Development as “undecided.”

How do I know what college I want to study in, but not my major? Now what?

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Office of Pre-Major and Academic Planning
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www.bgsu.edu/pmap
How often will I meet with my Pre-Major Advisor?

Exploring your major options will take time. It is extremely important that you are an active participant in the educational process and that you meet with your advisor on a regular basis. Monthly meetings are recommended as you develop an educational plan, and you will be required to meet before you can register for classes for the next semester. You can also contact your advisor through phone calls, e-mail messages and various social media platforms.

Is there a course I can take to assist in choosing a major and career?

Absolutely. In fact, through the Deciding Student Program, all incoming Pre-Major freshmen will take UNIV 1310, Career and Life Planning. This class will help you explore your interests, values and skills. You will research different careers, learn to set goals, and develop a plan for your transition to declaring a BGSU major.

Where can I get more information on what I can do with a particular major?

Take time to review information on the following website: www.bgsu.edu/majors

Scroll down to the big orange box and click on your specific area of interest. Select the major, then “Curriculum Guide” for an overview of that major and related career opportunities. Just remember, many majors lead to a variety of careers, so there may be even more options than those you see.

Where do I begin to get information on careers?

BGSU offers many resources to help deciding students navigate their educational journey and select a major and career path. It’s a great idea to start with your advisor in the Office of Pre-Major and Academic Planning (101 University Hall, 419-372-8943).

Other resources include:

- **FOCUS**, a complete career guidance system. This is available at your MyBGSU Web portal: http://my.bgsu.edu. Click on the “Student” tab on the top of the page and then look for “Career Center” in the menu on the left side of the page. Then click “FOCUS: Find your career.”
- **The Office of Pre-Professional Programs** (101 University Hall) 419-372-0498. This office is equipped to assist first- and second-year students who are considering professional school after graduating from BGSU. You will find many programs and resources to help when considering medical school, law school and dentistry school among others. Visit www.bgsu.edu/ppp

When should I declare a major?

You are strongly encouraged to declare a major by the end of your first year. Through the Deciding Student Program, you will be equipped and prepared to make this decision. If you are invested in the process, seek out help and use all the available resources — this is an easily attainable goal.

As you are working through the process, your advisor will make sure you stay on track to meet all the requirements for the major you select.

What is a typical first year of classes like for a deciding student?

It will be really helpful for you to check out the Deciding Student Program and you will see many examples of what a first year your classes will look like. Visit www.bgsu.edu/pmap

All academic programs at BGSU require students to complete BG Perspective (general education) classes. These are core classes that will help you gain critical thinking and communication skills. You’ll select classes in general studies writing, math, natural sciences, social and behavioral sciences, arts and humanities, as well as classes that provide a focus on cultural diversity and international perspectives. As you progress, you will gain more self-confidence and self-awareness as you explore different majors and see how they fit into your overall educational plan.
BGSU will take you from DECIDING to DECIDED.

Along the way, you will strengthen your critical thinking and communication skills. Step by step, your journey at BGSU will be a huge asset while you are at BGSU. You can plan out a two-semester track, selecting coursework that is applicable to all BGSU majors. The advisors will also connect you to many excellent BGSU resources like the Learning Commons, the Career Center, and the Counseling Center.

As you begin your BGSU career, you will enroll in BG Perspective (general education) classes. These classes satisfy core requirements for almost every major at BGSU. Along the way, you will strengthen your critical thinking and communication skills. Step by step, your journey at BGSU will take you from DECIDING to DECIDED.

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