

Steps in Choosing a Major

Choosing a major is a *process*—it's impossible to know what you want to study for the next several semesters without exploring the many options available to you. As an Undeclared student, aim to declare your major by the end of your first semester sophomore year. Follow these steps to get the process of choosing *your* major started right away!

Self-Assessment

Spend time assessing your interests, values, strengths, dislikes, abilities, personal qualities, and skills. *What do you like to do? What do you do well? How would you describe yourself? What's important to you (helping others, prestige, etc.)?*

Information Gathering

Explore department websites to learn about requirements. Attend exploration events like the fall Majors Fair and the spring U @ UMass student panel presentations to hear from department reps and upper-class students. Enroll in introductory level courses.

Cast a Broad Net

Your major \neq your career. Don't limit your thinking to one major or department, especially if that major or department is restricted. It's important to have a back-up plan. Think about areas of study that interest you.

Evaluate & Reflect

Assess your experiences in introductory or pre-requisite classes—do your academic strengths align with the requirements of the major?

Make a choice

Declare a major! If your first choice is restricted, declare your back-up plan—this way you can enroll in upper-level classes and make progress toward graduation.

Modify

Consider minors and certificates to supplement your major plan. Plan to get an internship and check out student organizations that align with your career goals and can help supplement your academic plan.