University Studies Program

A great place to start!
University Studies

a great place to start
What Does Undeclared Mean?

• A student admitted to college who has yet to declare the major from which they will eventually graduate

• Some colleges and universities call these students...
  – “Undeclared” or “Undecided”
  – “Exploratory”
  – “Students-in-transition”

• At the University of Delaware, these students are called:

  University Studies Students (UST)
MYTHS VERSUS REALITY

UNEDUCATED OPINIONS EVERYWHERE
Myth: Undeclared students take a bunch of classes that “don’t count towards anything.”

Reality: Our advisors are professionally trained to ensure that every class a student enrolls in counts towards particular requirements (university, college, major).

• We use a variety of methods to determine the most widely applicable classes students can take.

• Advisors can run audits and reports to determine how courses can fulfill different requirements.
Myth: Students who are undeclared lack direction and are poor decision makers.

Reality: Research shows that students who face the obstacle of determining a major but show a strong commitment to exploring/investigating are more likely to succeed.

- Being undeclared does not make a poor decision maker; the inability to adapt or commit causes indecision.

**Myth:** Most majors will not accept undeclared students.

**Reality:** UST students have been accepted into every college on campus.

- Entrance into the restricted majors are contingent on successful performance in required classes, e.g. high level math. These classes are open to all students, including UST.
**Myth:** Undeclared students enter with lower scores and are less academically prepared.

**Reality:** NOPE.

- Students who entered UD this fall as UST:
  - 74% had high school GPAs of 3.0 or higher
  - 43% had high school GPAs of 3.5 or higher

- Among all majors at UD, UST had the 5th highest number of incoming first year Honors students this fall
Can you guess my college major?

A. Exercise Physiology  
B. Accounting/Management  
C. Political Science  
D. Geology

Joe Flacco, 2008  
Quarterback, Baltimore Ravens  
University of Delaware
Can you guess my college major?

A. Criminal Justice  
B. English  
C. Theater  
D. Communication

Lauren Stein, 1997  
EVP and Head of Drama Development, Sony Pictures  
University of Delaware
Can you guess my college major?

A. International Relations
B. Psychology
C. History/Political Science
D. Management

Joe Biden, 1965
47th Vice President of the United States
University of Delaware
What is University Studies?

Our mission

- To enhance and support the educational experiences of those admitted to the University of Delaware who have yet to declare a major or are in transition from one major to another

Our goal

- To ensure our students are given the chance to explore their interests and work closely with them to create an individualized plan to identify and declare their major
Interest Areas

- Arts & Humanities
- Business
- Education
- Environmental Studies
- Life & Health Sciences
- Physical & Applied Sciences
- Social Sciences
- Undeclared
Types of Students We Advise

Enhancing

Examining

Exploring
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANTH101013</td>
<td>Intro to Soc &amp; Cult Anthropology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>University Breadth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON101021</td>
<td>Introduction to Microeconomics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>University Breadth/ Business Major Requirement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL110059</td>
<td>Seminar in Composition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>University Requirement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH115011</td>
<td>Pre-Calculus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Business Major Requirement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NTDT200017</td>
<td>Nutrition Concepts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>University Breadth Requirement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNIV101039D</td>
<td>First Year Experience I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>University First Year Seminar Requirement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course</td>
<td>Description</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM103070 GENERAL CHEMISTRY</td>
<td>University Breadth/ Physical Applied or Life and Health Science Interest Area major requirement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM103073L GENERAL CHEMISTRY</td>
<td>University Breadth/ Business Major Requirement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON101017 INTRODUCTION TO MICROECONOMICS</td>
<td>University Requirement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL110044 SEMINAR IN COMPOSITION</td>
<td>Math Requirement for Business, Physical Applied, Environmental and Life and Health Interest Areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH231010 INTEGRATED CALCULUS IA</td>
<td>University First Year Seminar Requirement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNIV101011D FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE I</td>
<td>1 credit hour – Pass/Not Pass</td>
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</tbody>
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# Sample Schedule: Exploring

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARTH227010</td>
<td>MODERN ART: THE 19TH CENTURY&lt;br&gt;3 credit hours – Standard Grading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BHAN155016</td>
<td>PERSONAL HEALTH MANAGEMENT&lt;br&gt;3 credit hours – Standard Grading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL110031</td>
<td>SEMINAR IN COMPOSITION&lt;br&gt;3 credit hours – Standard Grading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG203010</td>
<td>INTRO TO CULTURAL GEOGRAPHY&lt;br&gt;3 credit hours – Standard Grading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPAN107019</td>
<td>SPANISH III - INTERMEDIATE&lt;br&gt;4 credit hours – Standard Grading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNIV101055D</td>
<td>FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE I&lt;br&gt;1 credit hour – Pass/Not Pass</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- University Breadth
- University Requirement
- University Breadth
- Foreign Language Requirement (For majors that require it)
- University First Year Seminar Requirement
Majors

There are over 160 majors available at the University of Delaware within the 7 colleges.

UD students can choose the type of academic plan that suits them:

- Single major
- Major with a minor(s)
- Double major
- Interdepartmental major
- Double degree

UST students are expected to declare a major by the time they reach 60 credits.

UST students who declared majors in each college during 2018-2019
BENEFITS OF BEING IN UNIVERSITY STUDIES
Academic Planning

UST advisors work with students to enroll in appropriate classes for their major(s) of interest, help them incorporate study abroad plans when choosing classes, and discuss how various academic programs including double majors and minors might be accomplished during their time at UD.

UST students participate in programs such as: Honors, World Scholars, Delaware Innovation Fellows, Cybersecurity Scholars, and Community Engagement Scholars.
Workshops & Courses

Academic workshops offered by our professional advisors give students practical information to help them understand academic policies, the UD curriculum, and major exploration.

UNIV117: Exploring Your Academic Path
UST Spring Seminar that 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.
Partnerships across Campus

University Studies is conveniently located in the Center for Academic Success, which includes the Drop-In Tutoring Center. We also collaborate with other departments on campus including:

- The Career Center
- Other Colleges and Advisors
- Office of the Dean of Students
- Disability Support Services
- Student Diversity & Inclusion
Peer Liaisons

The UST Peer Liaisons is a structured network of current and former UST students with identified majors. They volunteer to share their journey in transitioning to college and finding their major.

Peer Liaisons work closely with UST Advisors to host social and academic programming tailored to helping students explore majors and engage in experiential learning.
Individualized Advising

UST has seven dedicated advisors with a variety of educational backgrounds and professional experiences. They are knowledgeable about UD’s curriculum and collaborate with the other colleges.

Each student in UST is assigned to a professional academic advisor, who is available to meet with in-person or by phone or answer questions through e-mail.

Advising appointments focus on student development, academic planning, major exploration and more.
About our Advisors

• 1 was undeclared
• 2 wish they had been undeclared
  – 1 more said maybe
• 3 changed their majors multiple times
• None had majors in their current field
• ALL use the skills they learned in their individual major(s) in their current position
What’s Next?

Interested in attending UD and know what major you want? Apply!

*If you decide later that it isn’t the major for you, you can switch to UST.*

Want to attend UD but are unsure about your major? Apply directly to UST!

To learn more about what it is like to be a student in University Studies, check out the UST Explorer blog: [https://sites.udel.edu/ust-explorer/](https://sites.udel.edu/ust-explorer/)

*Read about current and former UST students in the Student Spotlights, check out our Meet the Staff page, learn more about the opportunities and resources that will be available to you as a UD student!*
UD staff and BHAs are available to take your questions.
THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING!

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