SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY

Division of Academic Engagement and Student Achievement

Declaring Undeclared: Fact, Fiction, and Future

Paul Justice, Academic Adviser
http://undeclared.sdsu.edu/

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Declaring Undeclared: **Fact**, **Fiction**, and Future

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Fact or **Fiction**:

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Fact or **Fiction**:

students who enter as undeclared take longer to graduate

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students who enter undeclared have excellent graduation rates

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USA **SDSU**

Some statistics https://nces.ed.gov/ and https://tableau.sdsu.edu/ :

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- ca. 80% of students change their major at least once (**USA**)

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  →learn how this place works!!!

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  →learn how this place works!!!
  →register for first semester's classes

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  →many more, plus…

  →an opportunity to become an undeclared mentor

San Diego State University

Undeclared Student Success
Freshman Workshop and Mentor Program | **FALL SEMESTER 2016**

The Undeclared Student Success (USS) Freshman Workshop and Mentor Program provides focused, sequenced workshops that introduce undeclared first time freshmen (FTF) to important SDSU resources and policies one at a time. Students who complete the entire series of workshops are honored at an end-of-school year reception, where they receive program polo shirts and a certificate of completion. These students are also invited to serve as mentors to the following year's undeclared FTF, both at summer orientation and during the following academic year's workshops.

September

The Degree Evaluation

The degree evaluation is the single most useful WebPortal tool available to students. It lays out all graduation requirements and provides live links to the class schedule. Students who follow their degree evaluation will never be confused about their requirements, will never take classes they don't need, and, consequently, will graduate in a timely fashion. Unfortunately, the degree evaluation is not available at summer orientation, so it's impossible to teach students how to use it then. This workshop, held early in the first semester, will teach this incredibly important tool and instill good habits right from the start.

September/October

Understanding and Satisfying GE Requirements

Undeclared FTF focus their attention largely on lower division GE requirements their first two semesters, but with multiple categories and roughly 43 units, the GE pattern can be difficult to comprehend and follow. This workshop will build on the previous one by using the degree evaluation, specifically, to chart a GE course. It will also address opportunities for students to explore potential majors while satisfying GE requirements.

October

Exploring Prospective Majors

A wise choice of major involves much more than just a spin of a wheel. Undeclared FTF need to know not only what content a major covers, but also what its specific requirements are. These include, but are not limited to, unit requirements and impaction GPA. Students who declare a major that they can't complete in a timely fashion because of unit requirements, or even at all because of GPA requirements, don't put themselves in a position to be successful. This workshop will focus on researching various majors' requirements.

November

Understanding and Using the Class Schedule and Registration System

Searching the class schedule and creating a planner list of potential classes ahead of time can mean the difference between successfully enrolling in the classes a student wants/needs vs. being stuck with consolation classes. Shortly after the spring schedule is published, we will build on the previous workshops by showing students how they can create a planner list of GE and major exploration classes by using their degree evaluation.

January

Understanding Academic Probation and Disqualification

Despite everyone's best intentions and efforts, the first semester at SDSU does not always go well for undeclared FTF. As a point of reference, after the Fall 2015 semester, 49 undeclared FTF were placed on academic probation. These students need to become thoroughly familiar with the rules associated with academic probation and the potential risks that it presents to their student success. This knowledge is also important for successful students who intend to be mentors in the future.

March

Getting Involved on Campus

We want the SDSU experience to be more than just 120 units of course work. We want students to join student clubs and organizations; we want students to get involved with student government and programs like the SDSU Ambassadors. We recognize, however, that it's not always easy for students to learn about involvement opportunities on their own. This workshop, which will include contributions from partners across campus, will introduce students to the opportunities for involvement, as well as individual people who can serve as contacts.

February

High Impact Practices (HIPs)

Many studies show that HIPs promote student success. In addition to this benefit, HIPs can turn an ordinary undergraduate experience into an exceptional one. At this workshop, we will invite partners from across campus to present the multitude of HIP possibilities to students to help them begin the planning process early.

April

Career Services

SDSU's Career Services office can be an extremely useful resource for students, but only if they know about and take advantage of what Career Services has to offer. At this workshop, which will be co-hosted by Career Services at their office, we will introduce students to Career Services' resources and have them begin the process of utilizing those resources.

April/May

End of Year Reception and Recognition Ceremony for Qualifying Mentors

Students who attend each of the eight workshops throughout the year will be invited, along with their families, to an end-of-year reception at which they will be recognized through the presentation of a certificate of achievement and a program polo shirt. They will also be invited to serve as mentors for the following year's undeclared FTF, both at summer orientation and at the same academic year workshops that they attended through this program. In addition to this formal program mentoring, they will also serve as informal mentors, outside of the program's workshops, to the students who follow them.

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- The SDSU majors database

  →make an informed decision!

SDSU Undeclared Majors Database (undeclared website):

Majors Database for Undeclared Students

Feel free to sort and search this database in any way you please
To see an online list of majors, click on the link below
http://arweb.sdsu.edu/es/admissions/majors.html

Major	degree	prep units	major units	minor req.?	I.E. req.?	req. GPA
Accountancy	BS BA	24	48	no	no	2.90
Aerospace Engineering	BS Applied	50	51	no*	no	2.50
Africana Studies	BA Liberal+	9	27	no	yes	2.00
American Indian Studies	BA Liberal+	6	25	no	no	2.00
Anthropology	BA Liberal+	9	36	no	no	2.00
Art (History)	BA Liberal+	18	30	no	yes**	2.50
Art (Studio)	BA Liberal+	27	30	no	yes**	2.50
Art (Applied Design)	BA Applied	30	30	no	no	2.50
Art (Graphic Design)	BA Applied	30	33	no	no	3.00
Art (Interior Design)	BA Applied	33	30	no	no	2.50
Art (Multimedia)	BA Applied	30	30	no	no	2.75
Art (Paint/Print)	BA Applied	30	33	no	no	2.50
Art (Sculpture)	BA Applied	30	30	no	no	2.50
Art (SS Teaching)	BA Applied	36	32	no	no	2.50
Asian Studies	BA Liberal+	6	27	no	yes	2.00
Astronomy	BA Liberal+	27	27	no	no	2.00
Astronomy	BA Applied	27	36	yes	no	2.00
Biology	BA Liberal+	37	24	no	no	2.60
Biology^	BA Applied	37	36	no	no	2.60
Business Administration	BS BA	27	40	no	no	2.90
Chemistry^	BS Applied	39	36	no	no	2.00
Chemistry^	BA Liberal+	39	30	no	no	2.00

Quiz time…

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If you're undeclared, ***when*** should you declare your major?

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Quiz time…

If you're undeclared, ***when*** should you declare your major?

___ A) your first semester

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Quiz time…

If you're undeclared, ***when*** should you declare your major?

___ A) your first semester

___ B) your second semester

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Quiz time…

If you're undeclared, ***when*** should you declare your major?

___ A) your first semester

___ B) your second semester

___ C) your third semester

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Quiz time…

If you're undeclared, ***when*** should you declare your major?

___ A) your first semester

___ B) your second semester

___ C) your third semester

___ D) your fourth semester

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Quiz time…

If you're undeclared, ***when*** should you declare your major?

___ A) your first semester

___ B) your second semester

___ C) your third semester

___ D) your fourth semester

___ E) give it up – you're doomed to failure ☹

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?___ A) your first semester

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The answer ***depends*** on a number of factors, including:

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If you're undeclared, ***when*** should you declare your major?

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ASAP…….sooner……later……by 70 units earned

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req. major units:

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- ***Your*** priorities ( )

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1. you will begin as a **pre**-major

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1. you will begin as a **pre**-major
2. you must meet your major's impaction criteria (one of which is GPA)

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1. you will begin as a **pre**-major
2. you must meet your major's impaction criteria (one of which is GPA)
3. you ***then*** advance to the major and can complete the requirements

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Journalism Communication English Music

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3.0

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3.0 **2.75**

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The answer ***depends*** on a number of factors, including:

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What ***else*** do you need to keep in mind when deciding on a major?

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- ✓ Consult your ***Degree Evaluation*** in the WebPortal to see where you stand with units earned and GPA
- ✓ See an ***adviser*** (or two, or three, or four) to see what choosing a given major would mean for you

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Declaring Undeclared: Fact, Fiction, and **Future**

Resources for undeclared students:

- New student orientation in the summer
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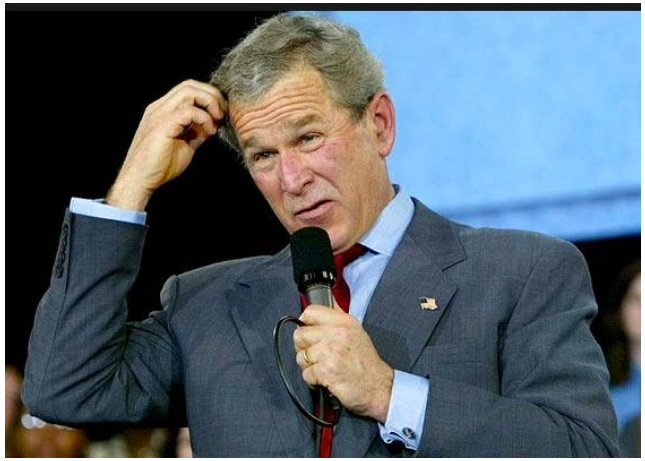

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  →extension of advising

  →promotes academic and community engagement

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  →extension of advising

  →promotes academic and community engagement

  →satisfies a General Education requirement

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Declaring Undeclared: Fact, Fiction, and Future

End with a quote:

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Declaring Undeclared: Fact, Fiction, and Future

End with a quote:

"The only true major for freshmen is undeclared"
~Dr. Sandra Cook, Director of SDSU Enrollment Services

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Paul Justice, Academic Adviser
http://undeclared.sdsu.edu/