Declaring Undeclared: Fact, Fiction, and Future

Paul Justice, Academic Adviser
http://undeclared.sdsu.edu/
Declaring Undeclared: **Fact, Fiction, and Future**
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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Fact or **Fiction**: students who enter as undeclared take longer to graduate
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Fact or Fiction:
Fact or Fiction: students who enter undeclared have excellent graduation rates
Declaring Undeclared: **Fact**, **Fiction**, and Future

**Fact** or Fiction:
*students who enter undeclared have excellent graduation rates*
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Some statistics [https://nces.ed.gov/](https://nces.ed.gov/) and [https://tableau.sdsu.edu/](https://tableau.sdsu.edu/) :
Fact or Fiction:
*students who enter undeclared have excellent graduation rates


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

**SDSU**

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- ca. 80% of students change their major at least once (**USA**)
- on average, students change their major three times (**USA**)
- ca. 33% of freshmen graduate in their first major (**SDSU**)
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Fact or Fiction:
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*The keys:
Fact or Fiction:
* students who enter undeclared have excellent graduation rates

* The keys:
  ▪ Be thoughtful
Fact or Fiction:
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*The keys:
- Be thoughtful
- Be open
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Resources for undeclared students:
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Resources for undeclared students:
- New student orientation in the summer
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Resources for undeclared students:
- New student orientation in the summer
  → learn how this place works!!!
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**Resources** for undeclared students:
- New student orientation in the summer
  → learn how this place works!!!
  → register for first semester’s classes
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Resources for undeclared students:
- New student orientation in the summer
- Undeclared workshops during the academic year
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Resources for undeclared students:

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  → online WebPortal tools
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Resources for undeclared students:
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  → many more, plus…
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Resources for undeclared students:
- New student orientation in the summer
- Undeclared workshops during the academic year
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  → career networking
  → many more, plus…
  → an opportunity to become an undeclared mentor
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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

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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.

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.

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.

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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- New student orientation in the summer
- Undeclared workshops during the academic year
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Resources for undeclared students:
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- Undeclared workshops during the academic year
- The SDSU majors database
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Resources for undeclared students:
- New student orientation in the summer
- Undeclared workshops during the academic year
- 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](http://arweb.sdsu.edu/es/admissions/majors.html)

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Quiz time…
Quiz time…
If you’re undeclared, **when** should you declare your major?
Quiz time…

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

___ A) your first semester
Quiz time…
If you’re undeclared, *when* should you declare your major?
___ A) your first semester
___ B) your second semester
Quiz time…
If you’re undeclared, *when* should you declare your major?

___ A) your first semester
___ B) your second semester
___ C) your third semester
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
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 😞
If you’re undeclared, **when** should you declare your major?

___ A) your first semester
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If you’re undeclared, \textit{when} should you declare your major?

\begin{itemize}
  \item A) your first semester
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  \item C) your third semester
  \item D) your fourth semester
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The answer \textit{depends} on a number of factors, including:
If you’re undeclared, *when* should you declare your major?

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

- *Your* interests ( )
If you’re undeclared, **when** should you declare your major?

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

- *Your* interests (Engineering? Sciences? Social Sciences? Humanities?)
If you’re undeclared, *when* should you declare your major?

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

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ASAP……sooner……later……by 70 units earned
If you’re undeclared, *when* should you declare your major?

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

- *Your* interests (Engineering? Sciences? Social Sciences? Humanities?)

-----

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

req. major units:
If you’re undeclared, \textit{when} should you declare your major?

The answer \textit{depends} on a number of factors, including:

- \textit{Your} interests (\textbf{Engineering? Sciences? Social Sciences? Humanities?})

\begin{itemize}
  \item ASAP
  \item sooner
  \item later
  \item by 70 units earned
\end{itemize}

req. major units: \textbf{100+ units}
If you’re undeclared, *when* should you declare your major?

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

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

req. major units: 100+ units   70-80 units
If you’re undeclared, *when* should you declare your major?

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

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req. major units: 100+ units  70-80 units  40-50 units
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ASAP .......... sooner ........ later ........ by 70 units earned

req. major units: 100+ units  70-80 units  40-50 units  30-40 units
If you’re undeclared, *when* should you declare your major?

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

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- *Your* priorities (  )
If you’re undeclared, **when** should you declare your major?

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

- *Your* interests (**Engineering**? **Sciences**? **Social Sciences**? **Humanities**?)
- *Your* priorities (specific major, specific experiences, time to graduation, etc.)
If you’re undeclared, *when* should you declare your major?

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

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

- *Your* interests (Engineering? Sciences? Social Sciences? Humanities?)
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What **else** do you need to keep in mind when deciding on a major?

- *Your* GPA (later on, at ca. 60 units earned), and…
If you’re undeclared, *when* should you declare your major?

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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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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?

- *Your* GPA (later on, at ca. 60 units earned), and…
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Impaction GPA</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Journalism</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
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<td>2.75</td>
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Declaring Undeclared: Fact, Fiction, and Future

Resources for undeclared students:
- New student orientation in the summer
- Undeclared workshops during the academic year
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Paul Justice, Academic Adviser

http://undeclared.sdsu.edu/