WELCOME,

Parents, Families, and Student Supporters!

Visit our Website!

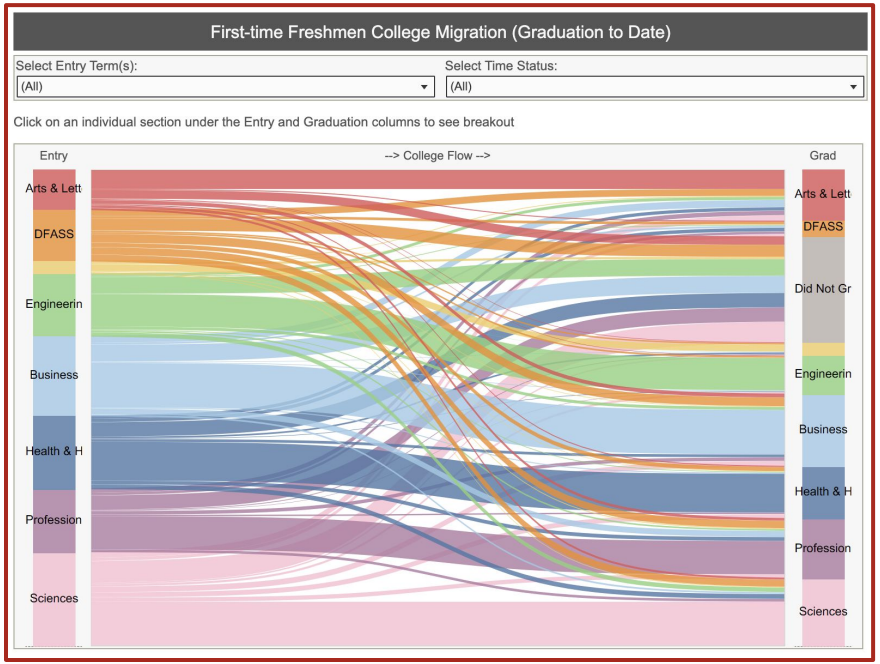
QR Code above takes you to the Undeclared Success Website

Joanna Brooks (AVP FASS)

- Ph.D., English (UCLA) | Tenured “full” Professor
- Associate Vice President for Faculty Advancement and Student Success
  - Oversee hiring, evaluations, tenure and promotion for 2000+ faculty
  - Lead data-informed and research-backed campus strategy on how to help undergraduate students succeed
  - Supervise interdisciplinary studies, undeclared, and Honors programs

- Mom of two university-attending daughters: a fourth-year English major at UCSB and a grad student at University of Michigan's School of Information, and aunt to nine college-aged students.

It’s great to be an undeclared student!



- 1 in 10 students start as an undeclared student at SDSU
- Most students change majors at least once

- **Characteristics of Undeclared Students:**
  - Innovative, interdisciplinary thinkers
  - Independent minded
  - Careful, thoughtful, courageous
  - Forward-looking, and problem-solving

- Our goal for Undeclared Students:
  Explore ➔ Connect ➔ Make an Informed Decision

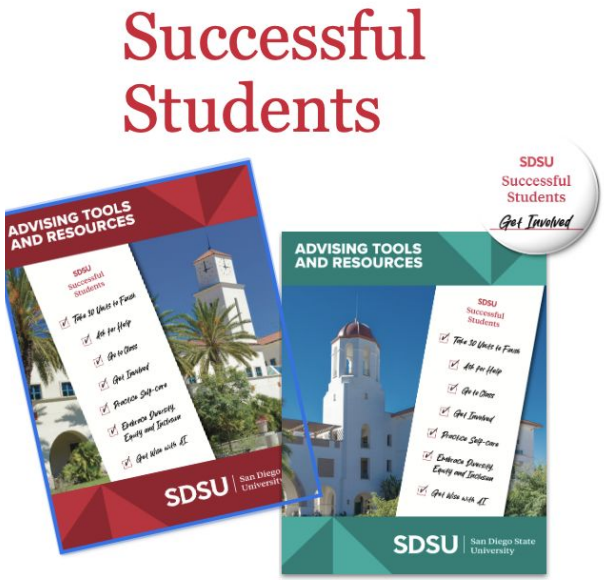
. . . data indicates that students who declare by the end of year one graduate at higher rates.
<u>Please encourage your student to declare a major by the end of year one!</u>

Goals for our time together:

1. General perspective on a successful first year
2. Supportive structure of Undeclared Success
3. Recommended first-year Undeclared course of study

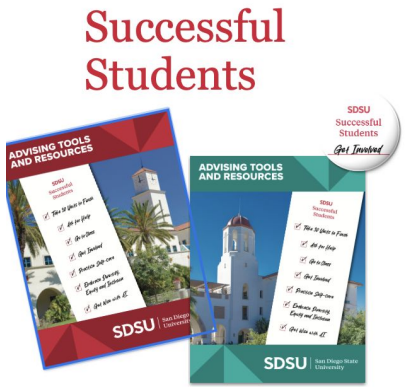
Successful Students 2026 edition

- Go to class[1]
- Take 30 units to finish
- Ask for help
- Get involved
- Practice self-care
- Embrace diversity, equity, and inclusion
- *Get wise about AI*[2]



Successful Students 2026 edition

- Go to class[1]
- *Get wise about AI*[2]

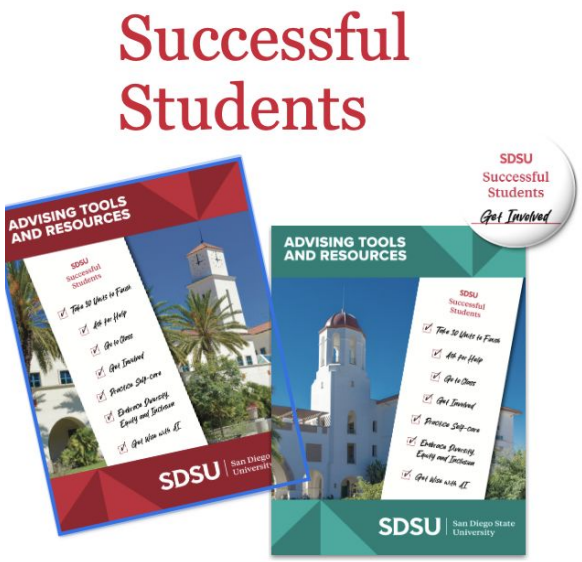


Footnotes for parents:

1. Neuropsychological research indicates in-person learning is best for people in emergent adulthood (18 - 25) due to incomplete formation of frontal lobe / executive functioning.
2. Peer-reviewed scientific research indicates that AI generates cognitive atrophy in students who rely on it. Faculty will guide students in how to use AI in ways that prepare them for the workplace without sacrificing cognitive development. Students should check the syllabus for instructor guidance.

Successful Students 2026 edition

- These are developmental recommendations designed to help students grow the full range of capacities essential to successful adulthood, including navigational savvy, communication skills, self-awareness, healthy habits, good judgment, and independence.
- Bumps and struggles are normal and growthful. College will require more effort; there will be a learning curve. Key is reflective listening and gentle questions that can model informed reflection.
- When to worry: if the GPA dips into academic notice territory (2.0 or lower), or emotional discomfort interferes with everyday functioning.



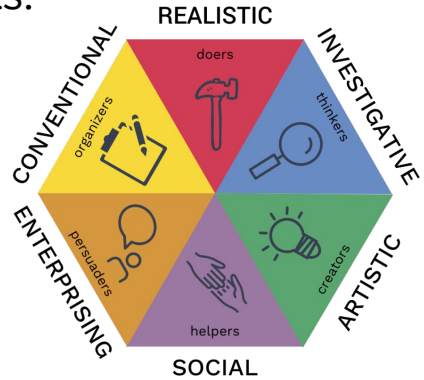
<u>When</u> you get that phone call … or text…try guided reflection using the successful students tips:

- “Are you going to class?”
- “Have you talked to the instructor?” “Have you been to office hours?”
- “Are you calendaring enough study time on campus?”
- “What are your faculty saying about AI?”
- “Do any of your classes have a GroupMe?”
- “Have you visited the ____ center / intramural sports / clubs?”
- “When was the last time you connected with your advisor?”
- “How’s the food?”

What is the Undeclared Success Program?

The Five Career-Aligned Undeclared Pathways

SDSU uses the nationally-validated, research-backed RIASEC tool to help students pick a pathway based on interests and traits:



Helpers / Persuaders / Organizers: Education & Public Service Pathway
For students who envision themselves in teaching, leadership, public service, or community-engaged environments.

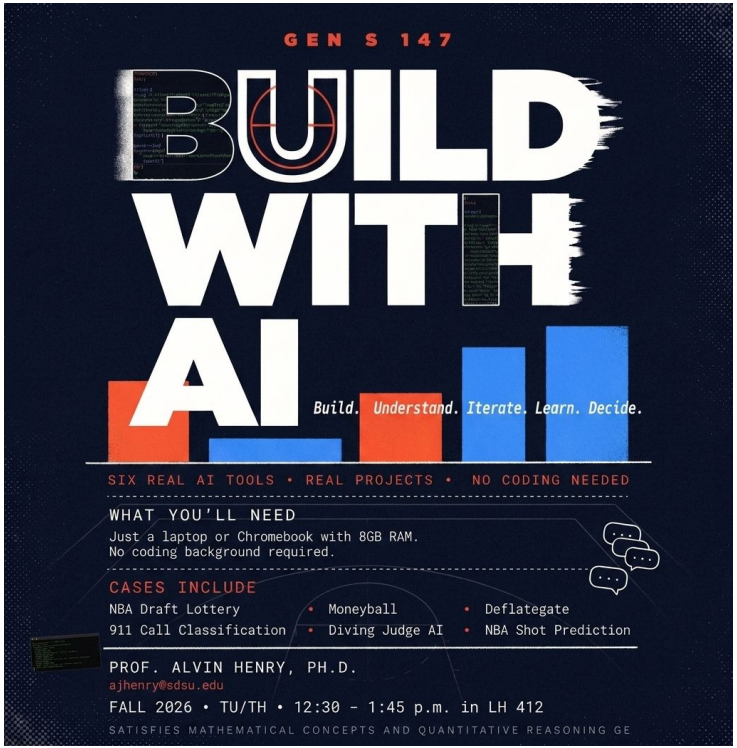
Thinkers / Creators / Persuaders: Innovators & Creators Pathway
For students who envision themselves in creative, imaginative, or expressive problem-solving environments.

Persuaders / Doers / Organizers: Builders & Makers Pathway
For students who envision themselves in dynamic industrial and commercial environments.

Doers / Thinkers / Creators: Sciences & Engineering Pathway
For students who envision themselves in clinical, applied, or experimental research environments.

Helpers / Thinkers / Doers: Health & Wellbeing Pathway
For students who envision themselves in evidence-based care-focused enterprises.

Intentional First Year Coursework



GEN S 100 A: Undeclared Success First Year Seminar (1 unit)

- Success Strategies: Academic, Personal and Professional goals
- Campus navigation: University systems of support

GEN S 140: Navigating College to Career (3 unit)

- Deep Dive into 3 majors of interest
- Begin to chart a course of study aligned with robust problem-solving skillset in career-envisioned future

GEN S 147: Data Literacy: Human Choices Behind the Numbers*

- Using analytical methods for data analysis and visualization
- Communicating insights and real-world problem solving

GEN S 147 (3 unit) is an excellent way for **non-STEM majors to **prepare for the workforce** by **learning data analysis and visualization** tools while fulfilling their GE Math requirement!*

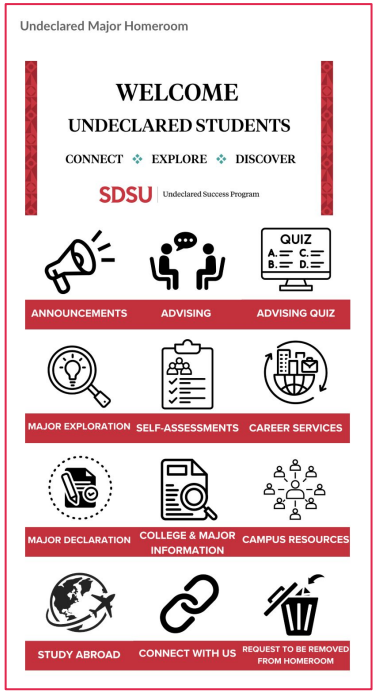
Dedicated Advising Support

Students will receive advising support and access to resources through various formats:

- Undeclared Canvas Homeroom
- Information and exploratory workshops
- Group, individual and drop-in advising

Advisors will guide students to meet change of major criteria.

Note: Students cannot change to Nursing.



Students are pre-registered into or (today) will register for pathway appropriate courses which will likely include:

SDSU | Undeclared Success Program

Innovators and Creators Undeclared Pathway
For students who envision themselves in innovative, creative, and problem-solving environments.

Gen S 147 or Stats 119
Comm 103, AFRAS 140 or GE Social and Behavioral Science
RWS 100, RWS 200, or (if fulfilled writing via AP) Art 133 or ECL 157
GEN S 140: Navigating College to Career
First Year Seminar (GEN S 100 A or C)
American Institutions: Recommended: Asian American Studies (AAS) 100 - 101, Africana Studies (AFRAS 170A & B), American Indian Studies (AMIND) 140 and 141, Chicana and Chicano Studies (CCS) 120 A and B, or 140A & B

Education and Public Service Undeclared Pathway
For students who envision themselves in teaching, leadership, public service, or community-engaged environments.

Gen S 147: Data Literacy OR SOC 201
Comm 103, AFRAS 140 or GE Social and Behavioral Science
RWS 100, 200, or (if fulfilled writing via AP) REL S 101 or Hum 103
GEN S 140: Navigating College to Career
First Year Seminar (GEN S 100 A or C)
American Institutions: Recommended: Asian American Studies (AAS) 100 - 101, Africana Studies (AFRAS 170A & B), American Indian Studies (AMIND) 140 and 141, Chicana and Chicano Studies (CCS) 120 A and B, or 140A & B

Builders and Makers Undeclared Pathway
For students who envision themselves in dynamic industrial and commercial environments.

Stats 119 or Econ 201
Econ 101
RWS 100, RWS 200, or (if fulfilled writing via AP) COM 103
GEN S 140: Navigating College to Career
First Year Seminar (GEN S 100 A or C)
American Institutions: Recommended: Asian American Studies (AAS) 100 - 101, Africana Studies (AFRAS 170A & B), American Indian Studies (AMIND) 140 and 141, Chicana and Chicano Studies (CCS) 120 A and B, or 140A & B

Clinical and Experimental (STEM) Undeclared Pathway
For students who envision themselves in clinical or applied / experimental research environments.

MATH 140, 141, or 150
CHEM 100 or CHEM 103
RWS 100, RWS 200, or (if fulfilled writing via AP) COMM 103
GEN S 140: Navigating College to Career
First Year Seminar (GEN S 100 A or C)
American Institutions: Recommended: Asian American Studies (AAS) 100 - 101, Africana Studies (AFRAS 170A & B), American Indian Studies (AMIND) 140 and 141, Chicana and Chicano Studies (CCS) 120 A and B, or 140A & B

Health & Wellbeing Undeclared Pathway
For students who envision themselves in evidence-based care-focused enterprises.

PSY 101 OR SOC 101
CHEM 100 or CHEM 103
RWS 100, RWS 200, or (if fulfilled writing via AP) COMM 103
GEN S 140: Navigating College to Career
First Year Seminar (GEN S 100 A or C)
American Institutions: Recommended: Asian American Studies (AAS) 100 - 101, Africana Studies (AFRAS 170A & B), American Indian Studies (AMIND) 140 and 141, Chicana and Chicano Studies (CCS) 120 A and B, or 140A & B

SDSU San Diego State University

Undeclared Student Success
Questions?
Email: sdsuundeclared@sdsu.edu

Undeclared Academic Plan

Name: _____ **Student ID:** _____

Email: _____ **Roadmap: Undeclared OR**_

1. **GE English Composition** **[If credit then]** **GE Critical Thinking** **OR** **GE Oral Communication**
(Choose your Top Three Choices)

1.	2.	3.

2. **GE Physical Science** **[If credit then]** **GE Arts and Humanities** **OR**_____
(Choose your Top Three Choices)

1.	2.	3.

3. **GE Social and Behavioral Sciences** **[If credit then]** **GE Arts and Humanities** **OR** _____
(Choose your Top Three Choices)

1.	2.	3.

4. **Gen S 140- Navigating College to Career - For Undeclared Students**
5. **First Year Experience - GEN S 100 Course (Pre-registered one unit course)**
6. **American Institutions & Ethnic Studies**
Recommended: Asian American Studies (AAS 100 - AAS 101), Africana Studies (AFRAS 170A and AFRAS 170B), American Indian Studies (AMIND 140 and AMIND 141), Chicana and Chicano Studies (CCS 120A and CCS 120B). (Choose your Top Three Choices)

1.	2.	3.

At the Computer Lab:
1) Open **my.SDSU** and select **manage classes** tile
2) Select **Class Search and Enroll** and open the **Fall 2026** tab - Search classes (time and dates)

- RWS 100, COM 103, or other GE requirements
- Gen S 100 (1 unit) small group “First Year Seminar”
- General Studies 140 (3 units): strongly recommended, rigorous support for major and career wayfinding
- General Studies 147 (3 units): Fulfills GE Math requirement; strongly recommended for Undeclared non-STEM / non-Commerce & Industry

Academic Supports for Undeclared Students

Find Your Community

Visit the **Undeclared Lounge (AD 201)**, a space just for you to study, connect, and feel at home. You're always welcome!

- Mondays - Thursdays: 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Fridays: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Drop in at the Undeclared Lounge in AD201

- Read messages from "EAB Navigate"
- Attend Gen S courses and talk to the instructors, especially in office hours.
- If first-year courses are bumpy, ask about the Writing Center, Supplemental Instruction, etc.

Thank you,

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