

# *Being* UNDECLARED

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## Exploratory Courses By Major

Undeclared students often ask, “*Which courses should I take while I’m exploring my options and making decisions about my major?*” Students should take the courses in majors that best match their interests and skills. Each department at the College recommends specific courses for students who are considering a major in that department. This listing should provide students some help in selecting the courses they may want to explore before they declare a major. Students should always confirm their choices with their advisor before they register.

<b>Major</b>	<b>Exploratory Courses for the Major</b>	<b>Courses That Satisfy Core Requirements</b>
Accountancy	ACC 203	
American Studies	AMS 101	
Art & Art History	Art History – ARH 106 Studio Art – ART 101 or ART 111	All satisfy Fine Arts Core
Biology	BIO 103-104 or CHM 101-102	BIO 103-104, CHM 101-102 – Natural Science Core
Chemistry & Biochemistry	CHM 121-122 or MTH 131-132	CHM 121/121L - Natural Science Core MTH 131-132 – Quantitative Reasoning Core
Computer Science	CSC 103	
Creative Writing	ENG 175	ENG 175 – Intensive Writing I Proficiency
Economics	ECN 101 or ECN 102	ECN 101-102 - Social Science Core
Education	Elementary/Special – EDU 125 or EDU 221 Secondary – EDU 201	EDU 125 & 221 – Diversity Proficiency
English	ENG 175	ENG 175 – Intensive Writing I Proficiency
Engineering/Physics	EPS 101, EPS 131*, MTH 131, and ECN 101 (*1 cr. seminar taken as a 5 <sup>th</sup> course)	MTH 131 – Quantitative Reasoning Core ECN 101 – Social Science Core
	ACC 203-204, ECN 101-102	ECN 101-102 – Social Science Core
Foreign Language Study	Adhere to Placement Test results or get permission from Department Chair.	
Global Studies	GST 101	GST 101 - Civic Engagement Proficiency
Health Policy & Management	HPM 101	HPM 240 (Social Science), HPM 408 (Civic Engagement), HPM 445 (Intensive Writing II)
History	Any 200 Level History	Electives can possibly fulfill requirements
Humanities	ARH 106	ARH 106 – Fine Arts Core

Management	MGT 101, ACC 203, ECN 101 or ECN 102	
Marketing	MKT 205, ACC 203, ECN 101 or ECN 102	
Mathematics	MTH 131	MTH 131 – Quantitative Reasoning Core
Music	MSC 201-201L	
Philosophy	PHL 101, PHL 103, PHL 150, PHL 202, PHL 206, PHL 207	PHL Core: PHL 101, 103, 207, etc. (any PHL) PHL Ethics-Core: PHL 202 (or any PHL-ethics course)
Political Science	PSC 101	PSC 101 – Social Science Core & Civic Engagement Proficiency
Psychology	PSY 100	PSY 100 – Social Science Core
Public & Comm. Service	PSP 101 PSP 302	PSP 101 – Civic Engagement Proficiency PSP 302 – Diversity Proficiency
Social Science	Any social science course (Anthropology, Economics, History, Linguistics, Political Science, Psychology, or Sociology) for which there are not prerequisites	Can possibly fulfill requirements
Social Work	SWK 101 SWK 220	SWK 101 - Social Science Core SWK 220 – Diversity Proficiency
Sociology	SOC 101	SOC 101 – Social Science Core
Theatre	TDF 100 & 200 Level Courses	Can possibly fulfill Fine Arts Core
Theology*	THL 200 (*Available after 1 semester of DWC)	THL 200 – Theology Group I Core
Women's Studies	WMS 101	WMS 101 – Diversity Proficiency

## Being UNDECLARED – Frequently Asked Questions



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### **1. What are the advantages of being Undeclared at PC?**

Undeclared students enjoy a unique opportunity to explore their interests, tap their talents, research options, evaluate alternatives, and make informed academic decisions before selecting a suitable academic major. Students may have many interests or may be unsure of how their interests may relate to a major. First year students are often unfamiliar with the PC curriculum and want to explore before declaring. The Undeclared Advising Program provides an opportunity for guided exploration of the curriculum so that students can assess their interests and talents in relation to a major.

### **2. Can I start out Undeclared and still graduate with my class in four years?**

Absolutely! The Undeclared Program provides students the opportunity to explore their interests before they declare their majors. Some students have already narrowed the field to a “short list” of potential majors. Others need to learn more about the majors offered at the College. In either case, there is more than enough time to explore your academic options and to complete your degree in the four-year program at PC.

### **3. What kind of academic advising is available to Undeclared students?**

All Undeclared students are assigned academic advisors who will work with them from Advising and Registration Days until they have selected their majors. Advisors come from all academic departments. They understand the uncertainties of first year students and have the resources available to assist these students in making sound academic decisions.

Often a student is assigned an advisor from a department related to the student’s interests. For example, a student considering a major in the sciences might be assigned a faculty advisor from one of the science departments. However, all the Undeclared Advisors are knowledgeable about every major at the College. They all know what resources are available and where to refer students for specific information or academic assistance.

### **4. What courses should I take while I am Undeclared?**

Students should select courses that interest them and that allow them to explore potential majors. (Refer to the listing of Exploratory Courses by Major included on the following pages in this section of the Guidebook). Students should not be taking Core Foundational Requirements right away, rather select courses that will provide some insight into the area of study that is the focus of the majors they are considering.

### **5. How are careers related to majors? What can I do with this Major?**

Generally, at the undergraduate level, there is not just one specific major required to enter a career field. While some careers fields require specific academic preparation, many employers look for skills that can be developed in virtually any major; the ability to think critically, organize and integrate information, communicate and correspond effectively. The liberal arts curriculum at PC develops these skills in all of its students.

Needless to say, a student who plans on becoming an accountant needs courses in accountancy. A student who plans to become a physician needs to take science courses. However, not all physicians were science majors. Future lawyers do not need to be political science majors, and businesses do not restrict hiring to students in business majors.

Helpful links to career options for various majors can be found on the Career Education Portal.

### **6. Where will I get help selecting a major?**

One of the primary goals of every Undeclared Advisor is to help students make informed decisions in the process of selecting a major. The advisor will also be able to refer students to other sources of information such as the Dean's Office, Career Education & Professional Development, Office of Academic Services, as well as the chairs and faculty members from all the academic departments. Each fall a **MAJOR/MINOR Fair** is held to introduce students to all majors and minors at the College.

Seminars are scheduled to help students recognize and develop their interests, abilities, and aspirations. In addition, the Undeclared Advising Program Office (Harkins 213) is always available to any student who has questions or concerns about selecting a major.

### **7. When do I need to decide about my major at PC? How will I know if it's the right one?**

The Undeclared Advising Program tracks the progress of all Undeclared students so that they have selected a major **by February of sophomore year.**\* This way, students will have a new advisor assigned by the major department who will assist in academic planning and selection of courses the student will take in the five remaining semesters. Ignoring this deadline may result in the inability to register for classes promptly.

Careful selection of exploratory courses will help determine if your interests and talents are well suited to the selected major. However, sometimes, if the choice is not a good match, students may change majors after consultation with the departments involved and the Office of the Dean.

**\*Early declaration is REQUIRED for the Education Department and is recommended for majors within the School of Business (Accountancy, Finance, Finance Fast-Track, Management and Marketing).**

### **8. Where can I find information online for Undeclared students?**

Many useful links and resources can be found on the Undeclared Student and Academic Advising websites.

Below are some things to remember as you begin to plan and prepare for your academic future.

- **EXPLORE!** Your schedule as a first semester student will include four courses. Pick at least two or three courses that will allow you to explore your interests. Your advisor will be a valuable help here.
- **EXPLORE!** If you have already identified a particular academic area of interest, be sure to register for courses that will allow you to explore it. See the planning forms in the tabbed section of this Guidebook.
- **EXPLORE!** If you are curious about a course or subject that you have never studied, select an exploratory course in that area.
- **IF** you are thinking about **Elementary/Special Education, Music Education, Health Policy, and Management, the Sciences, Social Work or Business** majors, review the relevant *Academic Planning Forms* in the tabbed pages of the *Guidebook* to select the recommended first semester/year course(s). Some majors require an early start.
- **IF** you are interested in continuing with a **language** or starting a new one, now is the time. This is a good way to develop your college-level academic skills. You may decide to complete a language minor, major or apply your language skills during study abroad.
- **IF** you are interested in exploring the Sciences, Mathematics, Economics or Business majors which all require a specific Math course, it is wise to select the appropriate math course early. Some majors have specific math requirements; some require more than one semester. Generally, you should take the math course level that you are recommended for based on the results of your Math Placement test. If it is a higher level math than required for a major, it will still satisfy the major requirement. If it is a lower level math, you will need to take another course later. Sometimes it is better to select a math/quantitative reasoning course which provides some review before taking the next level.
- **IF** you are NOT interested in a major which requires a specific math course, it is recommended that you defer taking a Quantitative Reasoning Core course until you determine your major. You may have future opportunities to fulfill the Quantitative Reasoning Core requirement with more interesting choices with a major content element (i.e. Statistical analysis type courses are offered in the social sciences) and such courses are typically not taken in the first semester.
- **BE FLEXIBLE!** Each semester, once you have selected the courses you want to take, be sure to identify some alternatives. You are never guaranteed that your first choices will have seats available.
- **BE ORGANIZED!** Use the *Academic Planning Form* to plan and organize your course schedules.
- **BE ADVISED!** If you are not sure, ask your advisor.

...and a few **DON'Ts**

- **DON'T** select a course for which you have earned AP credits (carefully review AP Equivalency Chart). AP credits ***may*** exempt you from an introductory course or ***may*** fulfill a core requirement.
- **DON'T focus on the core requirements** while you are exploring majors. Many of the exploratory courses you select will also meet core requirements, and, with very few exceptions, you have plenty of room in your four-year program of study for electives. Courses that meet specific core curriculum requirements are identified on *CyberFriar*.
- **DON'T be concerned about DWC**. All freshmen are pre-registered for a section of DWC 101: Development of Western Civilization.
- **DON'T limit your exploration** to courses. Talk to department representatives, students, and your professors about your interests.

# Orientation Checklist

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
Who is my advisor?	
If I have general questions about the Undeclared Advising Program, who should I contact?	Undeclared Advising Program Office (401) 865-2177 E-mail: <a href="mailto:advising@providence.edu">advising@providence.edu</a>
<b>Your first semester</b>	
What are my first semester courses?	1. Development of Western Civilization 2. 3. 4. 5.
What are my placement test results? (review these with your advisor)	Recommended Math Level: _____  Recommended Language Level: _____
What AP credits do I have?	AP test scores of 4-5:
How will my AP credits affect my course selections?	Be sure you are <u>NOT</u> registered for a course that is equivalent to AP transfer credits. You will not get credit twice. (see AP Equivalency Chart)
<b>Early Academic Planning</b>	
What are academic areas of little or no interest to me?	
What are the areas of academic interest that I would like to explore?	
What are the recommended courses that will help me explore those interests?	
<b>Review Electronic Resources</b>	
Do I have access to my PC student email account?	If not, call the IT Help Desk at (401) 865-HELP (4357)
Does my Banner ID and password allow me to log onto CyberFriar?	If not, call (401) 865-1033 (Office of Enrollment Services)
Am I able to log onto SAKAI to see my Courses and Advising groups?	If not, call IT at (401) 865-HELP (4357) or email <a href="mailto:sakaihelp@providence.edu">sakaihelp@providence.edu</a>