

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.