

**Not Ready to
Choose a Major?**

University Studies Program

A great place to start!



*College of
Agriculture
and
Natural
Resources*

*College of
Arts
and
Sciences*

*Lerner
College of
Business and
Economics*

*College of
Education
and
Human
Development*

*College of
Engineering*

*College of
Earth,
Ocean,
and
Environment*

*College of
Health
Sciences*



**University
Studies**



a great place to start

What Does Undeclared Mean?

- Students who enter college without applying to a specific major are considered undeclared students.



- Titles for these students vary from university to university and include designations such as *Exploratory Students*, *Undeclared Students*, *Open Students*, *Undecided Students*, *Students-in-Transition*. UD refers to students without declared majors as ***University Studies Students***.

“Undeclared” Myths

- Students who are undeclared are poor decision-makers and lack direction.
- Undeclared students enter college with lower scores and are less academically successful.
- Many majors will not accept undeclared students.
- Undeclared students cannot finish their degrees in four years because they take so many random courses.

“Undeclared” Realities

Students who are undeclared are poor decision-makers and lack direction.

- UST students have a variety of interests and utilize the freshman year to explore their academic options.
- University Studies is a top choice among incoming University of Delaware freshmen.



“Undeclared” Realities



Undeclared students enter with lower scores and are less academically prepared.

- UST students are academically talented and have a wide variety of skills and interests.
- Many UST students enter with AP, IB, or other transfer credits that may be applied to their curriculum requirements.
- UST students are also well represented in the UD Honors Program.

“Undeclared” Realities

Many majors will not accept undeclared students.

- UST students have been accepted into every major at the University of Delaware, including those majors deemed “competitive”.
- Approximately 75% of majors at UD are open to all students and can be declared at any time.



“Undeclared” Realities



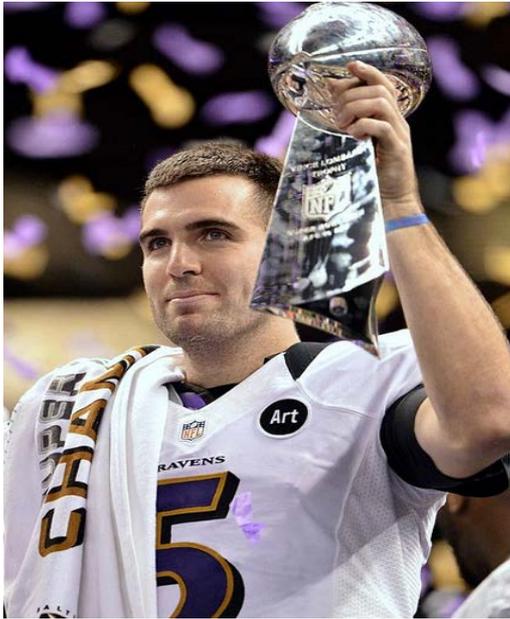
Undeclared students cannot finish their degrees in four years because they take so many random courses.

- The UD curriculum provides the flexibility to explore major options while meeting general requirements.
- Professional advisors are available to help students choose appropriate classes that will count in a variety of ways so graduation can be achieved within four years.

How Many Students Enter College Undeclared?

- In Fall 2017, 20% of incoming freshmen entered the University of Delaware as (undeclared) University Studies Program students.
- Nationally, 25% of students enter universities without a declared major.
- Another 50-75% of students will change their major at least once throughout their university careers.
- Among all interest areas undeclared programs have the highest percentage of incoming students nationwide.

Can you guess my college major?



Joe Flacco, 2008

Quarterback, Baltimore Ravens

University of Delaware

Exercise Physiology

Accounting/Management

Political Science

Geology

Can you guess my College Major?



Criminal Justice

English

Theater

Communication

Lauren Stein, 1997

*EVP and Head of Drama Development, Sony Pictures
University of Delaware*

Can you guess my College Major?



International Relations

Psychology

History/Political Science

Management

Joe Biden, 1965

47th Vice President of the United States

University of Delaware

What is the University Studies Program?

- The mission of the University Studies Program is to enhance and support the educational experiences of matriculated students who do not have a declared major and who have a wide variety of interests entering the University of Delaware.
- The University Studies Program (UST) ensures that students are given the opportunity to explore the many majors available to them before choosing their academic path.

Types of University Studies Students

- Exploring
- Enhancing
- Examining



Majors

- There are over 150 majors available at the University of Delaware within the 7 colleges.
- UD students can choose the type of academic plan that suits them:
 - Single major
 - Major with a minor(s)
 - Double major
 - Interdepartmental major
 - Double degree
- UST students are expected to declare a major by the time they reach 60 credits.

Interest Areas



- Arts & Humanities
- Business
- Education
- Environmental Studies
- Life & Health Sciences
- Physical & Applied Sciences
- Social Sciences
- Undeclared

UST Freshman Sample Schedules

Business	Social Sciences Humanities	Life/Physical Sciences
MATH 221 <i>(according to curriculum/placement)</i>	MATH 114 <i>or</i> higher <i>(according to curriculum/placement)</i>	MATH 221 <i>or</i> MATH 241 <i>(according to curriculum/placement)</i>
ENGL 110	ENGL 110	ENGL 110
University Breadth (ex. ECON 101)	University Breadth (ex. SOCI 201)	University Breadth (ex. SOCI 201)
Science Course	Science Course <i>or</i> Foreign Language	Science Course
First Year Seminar	First Year Seminar	First Year Seminar
SkilMod Course (ex. UNIV 113)	SkilMod Course (ex. UNIV 113)	SkilMod Course (ex. UNIV 113)
Total Credits: 15	Total Credits: 15	Total Credits: 16

University Studies Program Benefits

- Individualized Academic Advisement
- Academic Planning
- Peer Liaisons
- Workshops/Course
- Collaborative Programming



Individual Academic Advising

- Every UST student is assigned a professional academic advisor who meets with the student as often as they elect (and at least once per semester).
- Advising appointments focus on student development, course selection, and major exploration.



Academic Planning

- Students are invited to meet with their advisor to establish an individual academic plan for their college careers.
- Topics include:
 - Personal reflection and assessment
 - Short-term and long-term goal setting
 - Ways to enhance the college experience through discovery learning opportunities, such as Study Abroad, Undergraduate Research, Service Learning, or Internships.



Peer Liaisons

- The UST Peer Liaisons is a structured network of current and former UST students with identified majors. They volunteer to share their paths to finding a major and transitioning to college.
- Peer Liaisons work closely with UST Advisors to host social and academic programming tailored to helping students explore majors and engage in experiential learning.



Workshops/Course

- Academic Workshops offered by our professional advisors, give students practical information to help them understand academic policies, the UD curriculum, and major exploration.
- The UST Spring Seminar, “Exploring Your Academic Path” combines self-exploration, academic resources, engaging discussions and activities to provide students with a greater understanding of the components that may lead to their success academically and professionally.



Collaborative Programming



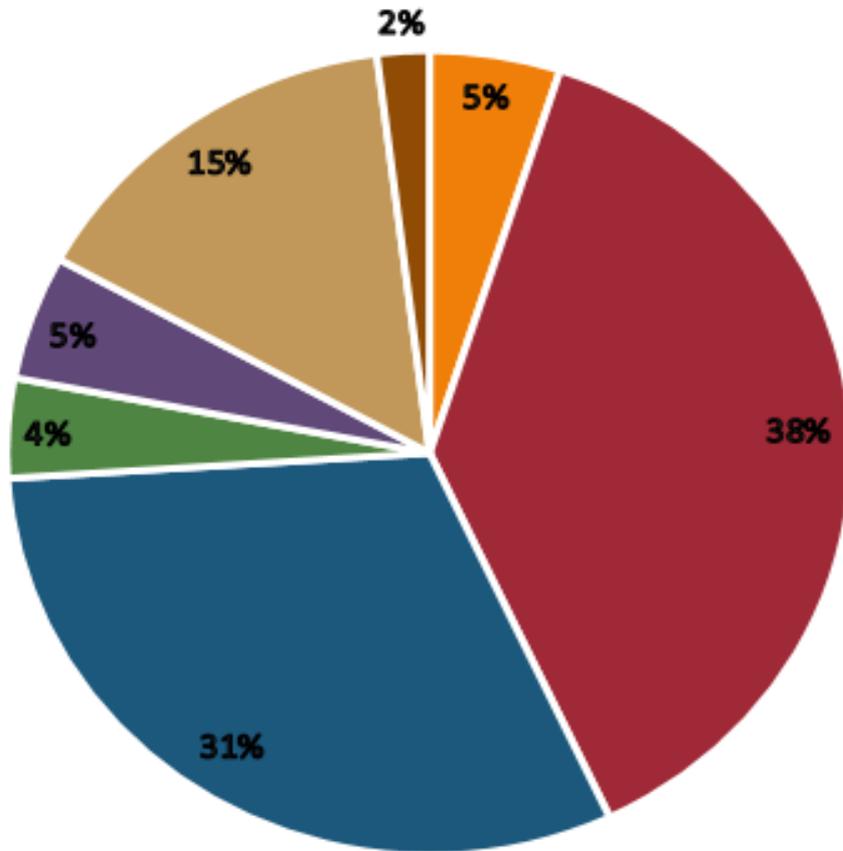
- Throughout the academic year, several programs are offered in conjunction with other departments on campus. Opportunities are designed to help students enhance their college experience and/or gain information about which major might be right for them.

As a UST Student you may also participate in...



- **Honors Program**
 - **World Scholars Program**
 - **Delaware Innovation Fellows**
 - **Cybersecurity Scholars**
 - **Community Engagement Scholars**

UST Students Who Declared Majors In Each College During 2016-2017



- College of Agriculture and Natural Resources - 5%
- College of Arts and Sciences - 38%
- College of Business and Economics - 31%
- College of Education and Human Development - 4%
- College of Engineering - 5%
- College of Health Sciences - 15%
- College of Earth, Ocean and Environment - 2%

University Studies Program Staff

- Dr. Avron Abraham, Faculty Director
- Adrian McCleary, Associate Director
- Margie Kiter Edwards, Academic Advisor
- Sharon Grayson, Academic Advisor
- Kathryn Goldman, Academic Program Manager
- Moira Curtis, Academic Advisor
- Sylvia Lee, Academic Advisor
- Lysbet Murray, Academic Program Manager
- Karen Seymour Administrative Assistant

For More Information



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