



# 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

Joseph R. Biden,  
Jr. School of  
Public Policy  
and  
Administration



# University Studies



*a great place to start*

# This presentation will:

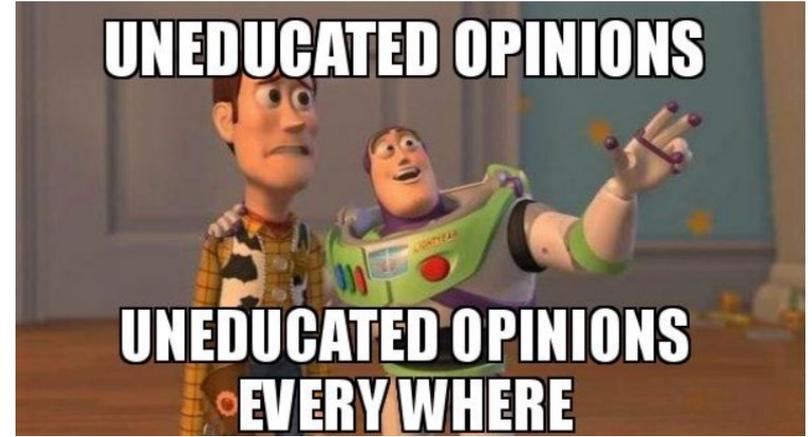
- Clarify what it means to be “undeclared” and dispel myths
- Share the goal and mission of the University Studies Program
- Discuss benefits of exploring as a University Studies Program student
- Learn about a student’s experience in the University Studies Program

# What Does Undeclared Mean?

- A student admitted to college who has yet to declare the major from which they will eventually graduate
- Some colleges and universities call these students...
  - “Undeclared” or “Undecided”
  - “Exploratory”
  - “Students-in-transition”
- At the University of Delaware, these students are called:  
***University Studies Students or UST students***

Being Undeclared:

## MYTHS VERSUS REALITY



**Myth:** Undeclared students take a bunch of classes that “don’t count towards anything.”

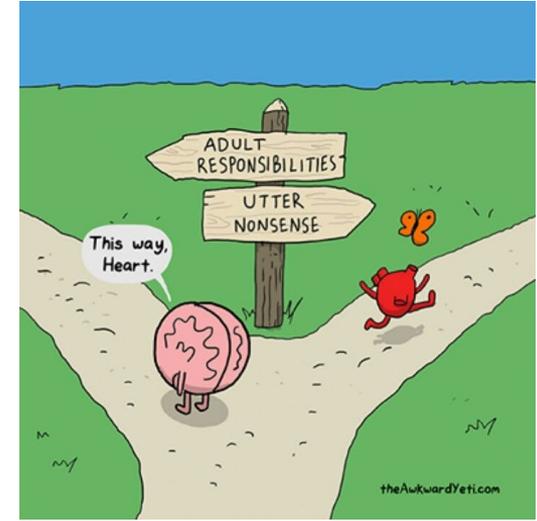
**Reality:** Our advisors are professionally trained to ensure that every class a student enrolls in counts towards particular requirements (university, college, major).

- We use a variety of methods to determine the most widely applicable classes students can take.
- Advisors can run audits and reports to determine how courses can fulfill different requirements.



**Myth:** Students who are undeclared lack direction and are poor decision makers.

**Reality:** Research shows that students who face the obstacle of determining a major but show a strong commitment to exploring/investigating are more likely to succeed.



- Being undeclared does not make a poor decision maker; the inability to adapt or commit causes indecision.

*Marcia, J. (1994). The empirical study of ego-identity. In H. A. Bosma, T.L.G. Graffsma, H. D. Grotevant, & D. J. de Levita (Eds.), Identity and development: An interdisciplinary approach (pp. 67-80). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.*

**Myth:** Most majors will not accept undeclared students.

**Reality:** UST students have been accepted into **every** college on campus.

- Entrance into restricted majors is contingent on successful performance in required classes, e.g. high level math. These classes are open to all students, including UST.



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

**Reality:** NOPE.

- Students who entered UD as UST in Fall 2021:
  - ✓ 94% had high school GPAs of 3.0 or higher
  - ✓ 65% had high school GPAs of 3.5 or higher
- Among all majors at UD, UST had the 5th highest number of incoming first year Honors students.



# Can you guess my college major?

- A. Exercise Physiology
- B. Accounting/Management
- C. Political Science
- D. Geology

**Joe Flacco, 2008**  
*Quarterback, New York Jets*  
*University of Delaware*



# Can you guess my college major?

- A. Criminal Justice
- B. English
- C. Theater
- D. Communication

**Lauren Stein, 1997**

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



# Can you guess my college major?

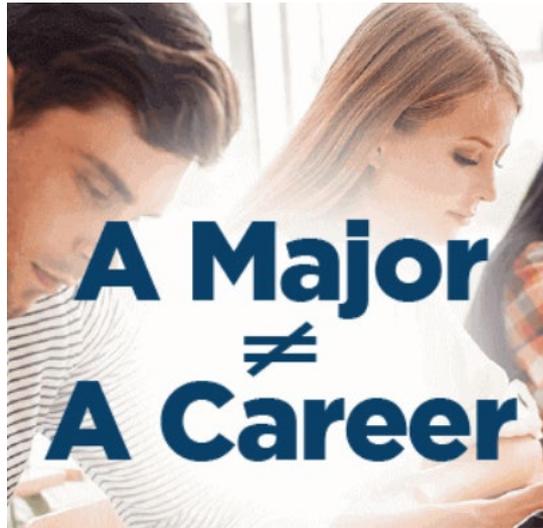
- A. International Relations
- B. Psychology
- C. History/Political Science
- D. Management

**Joe Biden, 1965**  
*46th President of the United States*  
*University of Delaware*



# Can you guess my major?

## Answers



Joe Flacco  
*Accounting/Management*

Lauren Stein  
*Criminal Justice*

Joe Biden  
*History/Political Science*

# WHAT IS THE UNIVERSITY STUDIES PROGRAM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE?



**University Studies  
(Undeclared)**

[LEARN MORE >](#)

# What is University Studies?

## Our mission

- To enhance and support the educational experiences of those admitted to the University of Delaware who have yet to declare a major or are in transition from one major to another

## Our goal

- To ensure our students are given the chance to explore their interests and work closely with them to create an individualized plan to identify and declare their major

# Interest Areas

Arts & Humanities

Business

Education

Environmental Studies

Life & Health Sciences

Physical & Applied Sciences

Social Sciences

Undeclared



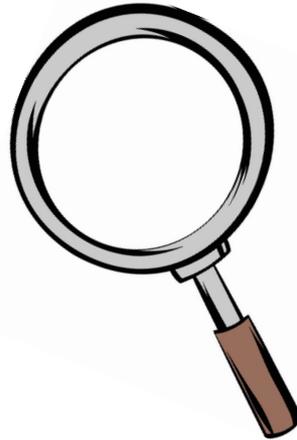
# Types of students advised in UST

## Enhancing



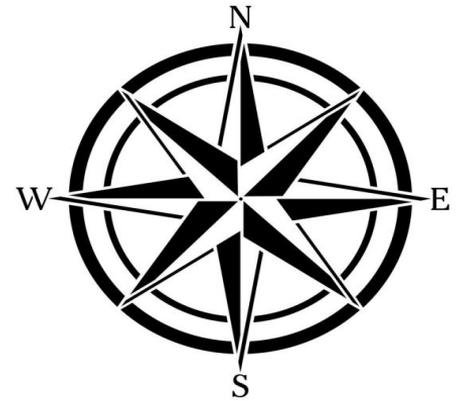
Sharpening skills  
to apply to a competitive major

## Examining



Narrowing down options  
between a few majors

## Exploring



Unsure about a major  
and exploring multiple options

# What is required of *all* UD undergraduates?

- (3 credits) **ENGL 110: Seminar in Composition**
- (0 – 4 credits) **First Year Experience (Seminar)**
- (3 credits) **Multicultural Course**
- (3 credits) **Discovery Learning Experience**
- (variable credits) **Capstone Experience**
- (12 credits) **University Breadth Requirements**



# University Breadth Requirements

All students must complete one class from each category below to satisfy University of Delaware requirements. This provides opportunities for students to explore disciplines, while satisfying requirements towards graduation.

- Creative Arts and Humanities
- History and Cultural Change
- Social and Behavioral Sciences
- Mathematics, Natural Science, and Technology

# Majors

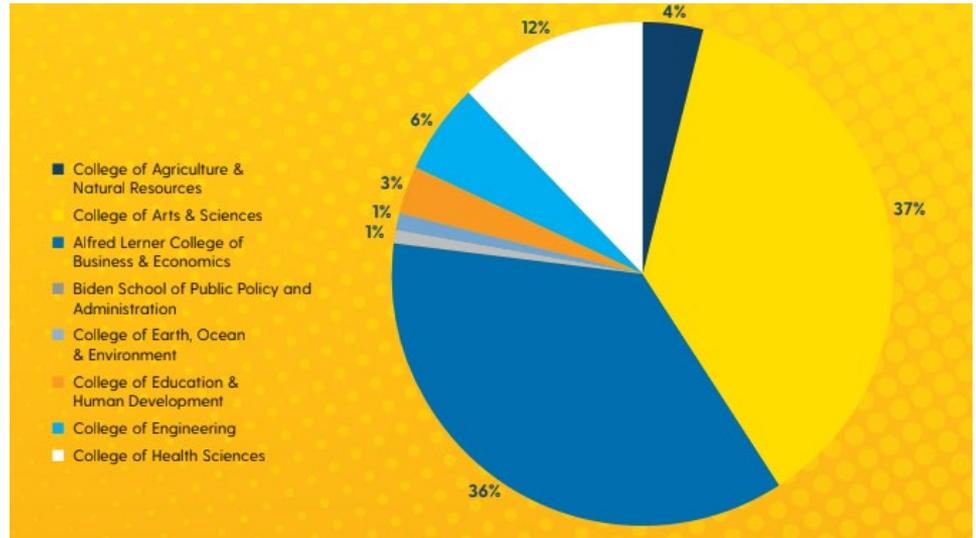
There are over 160 majors available at UD within our 8 colleges and schools.

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.

**UST Students who declared in each college  
2020-2021**



# BENEFITS OF BEING IN UNIVERSITY STUDIES



# Academic Planning



UST advisors work with students to enroll in appropriate classes for their major(s) of interest, help them incorporate study abroad plans when choosing classes, and discuss how various academic programs including double majors and minors might be accomplished during their time at UD.

UST students participate in programs such as: Honors, World Scholars, Delaware Innovation Fellows, Cybersecurity Scholars, and Community Engagement Scholars.

# Workshops & Courses

Academic workshops offered by our professional advisors give students practical information to help them understand academic policies, the UD curriculum, and major exploration.

## **UNIV117: Exploring Your Academic Path**

UST Spring Seminar that 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.



# Partnerships across Campus



University Studies is conveniently located in the Center for Academic Success, which includes the Drop-In Tutoring Center. We also collaborate with other departments on campus including:

- The Career Center
- Other Colleges and Advisors
- Office of the Dean of Students
- Disability Support Services
- Student Diversity & Inclusion

# Individualized Professional Advising

UST has six dedicated advisors with a variety of educational backgrounds and professional experiences. They are knowledgeable about UD's curriculum and collaborate with the other colleges.

Each student in UST is assigned to a professional academic advisor, who is available to meet with in-person or by phone or answer questions through e-mail.

Advising appointments focus on student development, academic planning, major exploration and more.

# Peer Liaisons

The UST Peer Liaisons is a structured network of current and former UST students with identified majors. They volunteer to share their journey in transitioning to college and finding their major.

Peer Liaisons work closely with UST Advisors to host social and academic programming tailored to helping students explore majors and engage in experiential learning.





# What's Next?

**Interested in attending UD and know what major you want? Apply!**  
*If you decide later that it isn't the major for you, you can switch to UST.*

**Want to attend UD but are unsure about your major? Apply directly to UST!**

**To learn more about what it is like to be a student in University Studies, check out the UST Explorer blog:**

**<https://sites.udel.edu/ust-explorer/>**

*Read about current and former UST students in the Student Spotlights, check out our Meet the Staff page, learn more about the opportunities and resources that will be available to you as a UD student!*



# Thanks for your interest in our program

## University Studies Program

Center for Academic Success

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Website: <https://ust.udel.edu/>

Instagram: [@ust\\_at\\_ud](https://www.instagram.com/ust_at_ud)

