



Deciding on a Major:

Advising for Undecided Students

“What’s your major?” This is probably the most frequently asked question posed to college students. If you have not yet decided on an academic major, you are not alone . . . and you are welcome at UW-Platteville!!

Many new students enter our university undecided about which academic major they would like to choose. If you are still exploring and considering all of the majors and careers available to you, the faculty and staff at UWP will encourage you to take a positive, constructive view while you pursue your interests and decide on a major. We are here to help you!

Questions most commonly asked...

“Who will serve as my Academic Advisor if I don’t have a specific major?”

The professional advising staff in the Advising and Career Exploration Services (ACES) office works with undecided students. You will receive help in planning your course work so that you stay right on track for graduation. By helping you to choose courses that fulfill General Education requirements and also allow you to explore possible areas of interest, ACES will help you begin the career exploration process.

“What courses should I take while I am deciding on a major?”

Regardless of your choice of major at UWP, there is a wide variety of general education course requirements which must be met by all students. All UWP students complete a minimum of 43 credit hours of General Education requirements. This will give you the chance to explore many different areas of interest while still making progress toward a degree.

“I really don’t know what I want to major in or what I want to do when I finish college. How do I go about finding out?”

There are a number of resources available at UWP that can help you determine your major or career direction.

- Advising and Career Exploration Services (ACES) office provides guidance with career issues through:
 - o Online career self-assessment
 - o Discussion about options within majors
 - o Links to internships and job search websites
 - o Books and magazines in the Career Resource Center
- UWP Counseling Center offers:
 - o In-depth career inventories

Also offered is a one-credit hour course entitled “Career Planning and Decision-Making” taught by the Coordinator of ACES.

Other Points to Remember

Discovering which direction you want to go in is a process, not a revelation that suddenly strikes you. You will grow and develop, both intellectually and emotionally, in the next couple of years. Time plays a significant factor as you take the journey to learn more about yourself and what you want to do. Your academic and personal experiences in the near future will play a large part in helping you make your decisions. And along the way, know that the faculty, staff and advisors at UW-Platteville will be there to challenge and support you.

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General Education Requirements

You must choose approved courses only- please use the current catalog for course choices.

Competencies: 13 credits

English Composition (2 semesters)	6
Mathematics (1630 or higher)	3
Speech	2
Wellness	1
Physical Activity	1
Foreign Language (if not met in High school)	0-8

Humanities and Fine Arts: 12 Credits

Humanities	3
Fine Arts	3
Historical Perspectives	3
Second Course: one of same disciplines already chosen*	3

Social Sciences: 9 Credits

First Discipline	3
Second Discipline	3
Second Course: one of same disciplines already chosen*	3

Natural Sciences: 9 Credits

First Discipline	4
Second Discipline	5

Choose two different disciplines chosen from Biology, Chemistry, Geography, Geology, Physics, or Physical Science. Must include labs.

International Education/Ethnic and Gender Studies: 9 Credits

International Education	3
Ethnic Studies	3
Gender Studies	3

Some courses may count for more than one category to fulfill requirements.

* May be designated "second course only"

Typical First Semester Schedule

English Composition	3 credits
Mathematics (level based on your Placement Test results)	3 credits
Lab Science	4-5 credits
Humanities, Social Science, or Fine Arts	3 credits
Physical Education	1 credit

This course schedule gives you a course load of 14-15 credit hours, a very typical credit load for a new student. All of the courses fulfill General Education requirements as well as provide you with the opportunity to explore areas in which you are interested.

For More Information:

Contact:

Advising and Career Exploration Services (ACES)
University of Wisconsin-Platteville
1 University Plaza, 136 Warner Hall
Platteville, WI 53818-3099
or call 608.342.1033
Email: advising@uwplatt.edu

-OR-

For general information about the university and its programs, consult the website at www.uwplatt.edu or contact the UWP Prospective Student Services
University of Wisconsin-Platteville
1 University Plaza, Platteville, WI 53818-3099
call toll-free 1.877.UWPLATT(1.877.897.5288)
or locally 608.342.1068

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