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 exploring all of the majors and careers available to you, the faculty and staff at UW-Platteville 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 Academic and Career Advising Center works with undecided students. You will receive help in planning your coursework so that you stay 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, ACAC 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 UW-Platteville, all students complete a core curriculum of general education requirements. These courses will give you the chance to explore different areas of interest while still making progress toward a degree. We can also help you choose a course or two in a potential major so you can try it out.

“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 UW-Platteville that can help you determine your major or career direction.

- Online career self-assessment
- Discussion about options within majors
- Excellent online career resources
- In-depth career inventories
- Access to job postings for internships, co-ops, full-time, and other employment opportunities
- Career Fairs and events
- Assistance with graduate school and professional school exploration

Other Points to Remember
Discovering which direction you want to go 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.
General Education Requirements  
(2014–16 Academic Catalog)

**Entry Year Experience: 1 Credit**  
Introduction to College Life 1  
(or a major-specific entry year experience course)

**Competencies: 13–21 Credits**

- English Composition (two semesters) 6  
- Mathematics (1630 or higher) 3  
- Speech 2  
- Wellness (Fitness Assessment and Management) 1  
- Physical Activity (or Marching Pioneers) 1  
- Foreign Language 0–8  
(required if not met in high school)

**Humanities, Fine Arts, History: 12 Credits**

- Humanities 3  
  (English Literature, Ethnic Studies, Philosophy, 
  Foreign Languages, Social/Environmental Justice, 
  Women’s Studies)
- Fine Arts (Art, Music, Theatre) 3  
- Historical Perspectives (History) 3  
- Second Course: 2000-level or higher course in 3  
  one of same disciplines already chosen

**Social Sciences: 9 Credits**

- First Discipline 3  
- Second Discipline 3  
- Second Course: 2000-level or higher course in 3  
  one of same disciplines already chosen  
  (Economics, Ethnic Studies, Geography, 
  Media Studies, Political Science, Psychology, 
  Sociology, Women’s Studies)

**Natural Sciences: 8 credits**

- First Discipline 4  
- Second Discipline 4  
  (Two different disciplines chosen from Biology, 
  Chemistry, Physical Geography, Geology, Physics, 
  or Physical Science; labs required in both courses.)

**International Educ./Ethnic/Gender Studies: 6–9 credits**

- International Education 3  
- Ethnic Studies 3  
- Gender Studies 3

**Other Requirements:**
- At least 42 credits at the 3000 level or higher  
- Two Writing Emphasis courses at the 2000-level or higher

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**Typical First Semester Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English Composition</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics (level based on your Placement Test results)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lab Science</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humanities, Social Science, or Fine Arts</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wellness or Physical Activity</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entry Year Experience</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This course schedule gives you a course load of 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**

**Academic and Career Advising Center**  
UW-Platteville  
1 University Plaza  
Platteville WI 53818-3099  
or call 608.342.1183  
Email: acac@uwplatt.edu  
Website: www.uwplatt.edu/acac

For general information about the university and its programs, consult the website at www.uwplatt.edu or contact Admission and Enrollment Services.  
UW-Platteville  
1 University Plaza  
Platteville WI 53818-3099  
Email: admit@uwplatt.edu  
call toll free 1.877.UWPLATT(1.877.897.5288)  
or locally 608.342.1127

Visit us at www.uwplatt.edu

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