

Worksheet for Major Declaration Decision

You will be required to have a declared major on file in the Registrar's office by the end of the semester in which you have completed sixteen courses towards the degree. Begin using this worksheet now to help you with decisions and to meet the declaration deadline.

I am interested in exploring a major in _____

Step 1:

Take at least one course in the department.

Possible courses to take: _____

Ask yourself: Why have I chosen this major? What is this major about? How does this contribute to my short-term goals? How does this contribute to my long-term goals?

(Record your thoughts here)

Step 2:

Talk with my current academic advisor: *appointment date* _____.

Ask: Is this major a good match with my interests?

Ask: Is this major a good match with my academic strengths?

Ask: Will I be able to meet the requirements for the major?

(Record any notes/questions here)

Step 3:

Talk with faculty members in the department:

Ask: What is the general structure of this major, what do I need to do?

Ask: Will I be able to study my particular interest?

Ask: What is this major about?

(Record any notes/questions here)

Step 4:

Talk with current majors.

Ask: Have they taken courses outside of the major that have helped?

Ask: What is interesting to them in the major?

(Record any notes/questions here)

Step 5:

Many departments have strong connections with alumni. Contact alums (*see suggestions below*) with this major or with jobs similar to your goals:

Ask: If they could take one course again, what would it be and why?

Ask: If they could have added an experience to their educational program, what would it have been?

Ask: Did studying this major influence their careers? In what ways?
Did they expect that?
(Record any notes/questions here)

Step 6:

_____ Meet with the chairperson of the department: *appointment date* _____
Ask: What other courses/programs relate to this major?
Ask: Are there courses in related areas I might want to consider taking as context for the major field? Or as complements to it?
Ask: Are there options within the major, such as thematic concentrations, research or internships, TA work, writing to publish, public presentations? How do I get involved in these?
Ask: Who will be my advisor?
(Record any notes/questions here)

Step 7:

_____ As soon as you know who your major advisor is, make an appointment with the new advisor to

- Discuss your goals
- To prepare a preliminary plan for your education

Appointment date _____
(Record any notes/questions here)

Step 8:

_____ Review the “Major to Career” section of
www.dickinson.edu/career/majorcareer/index.html

Step 9:

_____ Pursue and follow-up on additional sources of information and potential contacts, such as:
Other faculty teaching in related departments/fields
Career Center
Guests on campus for lectures, symposia
Departmental programs where alumni are speaking
Dickinson Magazine
Departmental web pages

Step 10:

_____ Complete the Declaration of Major form
Forms available on link: www.dickinson.edu/departments/reg OR in Biddle House