

Planning for Academic Success

Changing Majors

As midterm grades post and registration approaches, your student may be considering a change of major. Perhaps he or she is struggling in the subject area or is just not interested in the career field he or she originally thought. Whatever the reason, your student should take some time to make an informed decision. Here are some resources you can encourage your student to seek out:

USF Career Services

If your student is unsure about his or her next major, Career Services can help. Students can make an appointment with a Career Counselor by calling 813-974-2171. During this appointment, students can discuss their interests and strengths, as well as their goals. They also have a supplemental guide called “[Find your Future Career](#)” on their website (<http://www.usf.edu/career-services/>) that can help map out the process.

TRansitional Advising Center (TRAC)

The advisors in the TRansitional Advising Center are available for students in the process of Major Re-selection. They can look at students’ previous coursework to determine academic strengths, as well as discuss alternative majors. Once the student decides upon a major, he or she should meet with an advisor in that major. Students can make an appointment with TRAC through the Online Scheduling System in OASIS.

Academic Advising

Before declaring a new major, the student should consult an Academic Advisor in that major. The advisor can help determine what courses are left to take to complete the major and map out a plan to degree completion. Additionally, advisors can let students know if changing to the new major will have implications on the Degree Progression Policy and the Excess Hours Surcharge. If so, the advisors may be able to suggest an alternate major that could still meet the student’s goals. Students can find advisor contact information online at <http://www.ugs.usf.edu/academicadvising/index.htm>.

Considerations

- The earlier in the academic career that your student seeks out this information, the more opportunities they have to make a major change. It is more difficult to change majors the farther along one is.
- Some majors are more flexible in their scheduling and pre-requisites than others. Although it may look like there are not many courses to take, there may be a lock-step sequence to the courses that is not easily identified on first glance. Please consult with advising.
- Students should keep their options open. Many times, employers are not as concerned with the major as they are with experience. Students should enhance their resumes with internships, co-ops, study abroad, and organizational involvement to help them stand out in the job market.

Changing majors can be a stressful process. An encouraging and supportive home environment can help to ease worry in this stressful time.

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