Many students enter college unsure of their major; however, undeclared students who apply to the Swenson College of Science and Engineering (SCSE) know that they are interested in math and science and they usually performed well in these subjects in high school. Students entering college as an undeclared major are often at different starting points regarding their major decision…

*I am not really sure…*  
*I’ll know it when I see it…*  
*I want to be…*  

National research has shown that 75% of all college freshmen have some uncertainty about their educational goals, with an average of 85% declared students changing their major at least once. The good news for undeclared students is research has shown they are more likely to graduate from college and will be happier with their major once they declare it. This is because undeclared students explore their options and research information, leading to an informed decision before declaration of a major.

Students often ask; *Will I be behind if I am undeclared?* A simple answer is no. However, to keep this true, students must pay attention to their major interests, choose courses wisely and work closely with an academic advisor. Students must also be aware of the components that make up a degree.

**Degree Requirements**

Completion of at least 120 credits

- **Liberal Education Program**, which includes Writ 1120.
- **Major** 23-90 credits  
  Some majors may require a larger number of credits.
- **Minor** (or 2nd Major) 12-48 credits  
  A minor is not required for Engineering or Environmental Science.
- **Writ 31xx** 3 credits  
  Taken after 60 completed credits.
- **Electives** Courses of interest to bring you to minimum 120 credits.

Minimum GPA to earn a Degree at the University of Minnesota Duluth

- **University Overall GPA**: 2.00  
- **Major and Minor GPA**: 2.00 (some Majors require a 2.5 or higher for admission into upper division courses)

**Undeclared SCSE Majors and Advising**

All students at UMD are assigned either an Academic Advisor who is a faculty member in a specific department or a professional advisor who works across majors. Undeclared students in SCSE are assigned a professional advisor who will work with the student’s individual interests, goals, values and skills.

Key university tools help students understand how courses they choose relate to university, major or minor requirements. These include the online UMD Catalog and the Academic Progress Audit System (APAS report) that verifies degree requirements.

**Start gathering information now**

UMD’s Career & Internship Services office is a great resource for major and career search, such as Job shadowing, interviewing and learning about what UMD students do with their majors after graduation (UMD Graduate Follow-up Report) and more. Begin talking with university alumni or individuals who are working in their field of interest, professors and your family. Gathering information from these sources help students learn how others made their “major decisions” and provides direction or interest. Students can also enroll in CNED2535, a focused Major and Career Exploration course offered each term.

Review the resource information on the back of this sheet to explore how your personality, values, interest and skills fit majors and careers. Then explore the UMD Catalog for detailed information about courses and requirements for any majors of interest to you.
Whether declared or undeclared, what will your schedule look like?

I. Writing Course: Writ 1120, College Writing (3 cr) is required to graduate from UMD. It is designed as a first year course. Students take this course either Fall or Spring of the freshman year.

II. Math Course: Because all programs in SCSE require mathematics most students will register for a math course their first semester. Math placement policy, determined by the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, is based on the correlation between Math ACT score and success (grade of C or higher) in first semester math.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACT/SAT Requirement</th>
<th>Math Course Eligible</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Math ACT &gt; 27</td>
<td>Math 1296 Calculus I or Math 1290 Calculus for Natural Science (5cr)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math ACT 24-26</td>
<td>Math 1250 Precalculus Analysis (4cr)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math ACT 21-23</td>
<td>Math 1005 College Algebra (5cr)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math ACT &lt; 21</td>
<td>Math 0103 Basic Math and Elementary Algebra (0cr)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

III. Science Course: Most SCSE freshmen choose from courses such as those below for fall semester. You will work with an academic advisor to determine which is most appropriate you. If you are not sure you will choose a science or engineering major you might start with subjects outside of science. Some students wait until Spring semester to begin their sciences.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biol 1011 General Biology 1</td>
<td>5 cr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geol 1110 Geology and Earth Systems</td>
<td>4 cr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chem 1153/1154 General Chemistry 1/Lab</td>
<td>5 cr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CS 1511 Computer Science 1</td>
<td>5 cr (or another CS course)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IV. Liberal Education courses: Will round out your schedule and provide opportunity to explore options. Enrolling in a breadth of liberal education courses may also help you decide your major. A “Two for One” Liberal education & SCSE Major grid is available to students in the SCSE’s Advising and Academic Services office. This helps students see how some liberal education courses also help meet requirements for a major or minor.

Online Resources to Explore

Tools and resources are available to assist you in making your Major Decisions: Explore your “Self-Knowledge” by completing assessments connecting your personality, interests, skills, and values with major/careers. Explore information within “Academic and Career Knowledge” (UMD Catalog, Occupational Outlook and information interviews). Taking these steps will help you make connections to majors and careers.

A complete list of UMD’s Major and Minor Requirements is found in the UMD Catalog: [http://www.d.umn.edu/catalogs/current/](http://www.d.umn.edu/catalogs/current/)

US Bureau of Labor and Statistics holds the latest career information including training & education, earnings, work conditions and projected job openings.


Google! What Can I do with a major in… the following link is a comprehensive source. However, just Google a major and you will learn more! [http://uncw.edu/career/WhatCanIDoWithaMajorIn.html](http://uncw.edu/career/WhatCanIDoWithaMajorIn.html)


UMD Career & Internship Services: Internships, Skills, Job search, Graduate Follow-up reports and more: [http://www.d.umn.edu/careers/services/assessments.html](http://www.d.umn.edu/careers/services/assessments.html)

O*NET Interest Profiler provides career areas matching interests: [http://www.mynextmove.org/explore/ip](http://www.mynextmove.org/explore/ip)

My Plan offers a Values Assessment helping you learn your underlying work values, which link to career matches. Careers are further defined by educational level once work values are determined. [http://www.myplan.com/assess/values.php](http://www.myplan.com/assess/values.php)

Personality Types and Multiple Intelligences at my personality: [http://www.mypersonality.info/](http://www.mypersonality.info/) Take the free “basic tests”, linking personality & learning to careers