Students who change their majors...over and over

Eighty percent of students change their major at least once. On average, college students change their major three times throughout their college career. The major a student declares is important for their first job after graduation, but studies show that most people will change careers four or five times over the course of their lives — and no major exists that can prepare them for that. How do departmental advisors handle a situation where a declared student is considering changing their major?

Understandably there is a process. If you are a departmental advisor, please inform students of the steps they should follow before changing their major:

**Student Steps:**

ONE – Do an examination of your **interests**. The internet offers a variety of assessment tools. However, the UMD Career Services office owns numerous types and provides feedback after the assessment. Students are encouraged to visit their office in 22 SCC.

SECOND – Do an examination of your **skills**. What are your strengths and weaknesses? What are your skills? What subjects interest you the most? What activities do you enjoy outside of school? What have you learned through jobs you have experienced?

THIRD – What do you value in **work**? Some examples are: helping society, working under pressure, group affiliation, stability, security, status, pacing, working alone or with groups, having a positive impact on others, and many others.

FOURTH – Explore your **career options**. Seek out information related to ‘What can I do with a major in…?’ The CLA SAAC office has these handouts available.

FIFTH – Give yourself a **reality check**. Do you really value and enjoy the business courses you are taking? Do you have a strong interest in learning about people but do not enjoy interaction? Does your occupation require an advanced degree, but you have not considered graduate school? It is important to face obstacles and be realistic about whether you can get through them.

SIXTH – **Decide** on your choices. After steps one through five you should have a better idea of the careers/majors you are not interested in and ones with potential.

At UMD students must declare their major/minor through the appropriate collegiate student affairs office. If students request to change to a different collegiate unit, they must file a ‘Change of College’ form to the collegiate unit offering the major. Forms are available online and through all student affairs offices.

Adapted from: *Choosing a College Major: How to Chart Your Ideal Path*

By Randall S. Hansen, Ph.D. (Pam Spencer)
Announcement

Michele Hatcher has accepted the position as Advising Services Coordinator for Undeclared Students. She will assist all UMD students who are undecided or indecisive about their majors. Michele can be reached at 726-7583 or mhatcher@umn.edu.

About This Newsletter

The intent of The CLA Advising News is to provide CLA faculty with timely information pertaining to student records and advising issues. Faculty input is welcome. Please forward your comments and suggestions for future issues to SAAC at pspencer@umn.edu.

Midterm Progress Report Form Modified

CLA students on academic probation will no longer be required to meet with each of their current instructors in order to complete the Midterm Progress Report form. However, students will be required to meet with their advisors to discuss their progress and future plans. Probation students have been emailed the revised form. Since there is a hold on their record, they cannot register for next term until the form is completed, signed by their advisor, and turned in to the CLA SAAC. They will be contacting you soon for advisement.

Hold screen

Students receive an email message weeks before registration informing them of their registration time and any active holds on their record that will prevent registration. Holds may also be placed after this official message, so students are advised to check their record before their registration day/time.

Students are able to view their holds by accessing the following site: http://www.d.umn.edu/Register/, Check for Holds

**EXAMPLE of the hold screen**

Instructions: A hold is a restriction on the ability to perform certain functions. Many holds do not prevent you from enrolling. Click on a hold link for details.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hold Type</th>
<th>Effective Date</th>
<th>Effective Term</th>
<th>Impact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prob Academic Warning</td>
<td>11/3/2008</td>
<td>All Terms</td>
<td>Hold Registration/Allow Cancel</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To view detailed instructions on how to clear this hold, students must click on the hold type. A new window will open with instructions on how and where to clear this hold.

**Effective Date** - This date informs the student of when the hold will become ‘active’. On this date the impact field becomes active.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common holds</th>
<th>Where to clear hold:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts Receivable</td>
<td>Windows 15 or 16, Darland Admin Bldg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic Advisement</td>
<td>See advisor then CLA SAAC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic Dismissal</td>
<td>CLA SAAC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLA Declare Major</td>
<td>CLA SAAC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLA Major/Minor Confirmation</td>
<td>CLA SAAC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please welcome Gail Mentzel, Assistant Academic Advisor (half-time), to our team. Her main focus will be advising first year undecided students. Gail will be located within the CLA SAAC, 310 Kirby Plaza.