

# Undergraduate Studies, **Academic** Major Policies

## Declaring a Major

A student's first major, or undeclared major status, is determined by his or her application for admission.

While applying, students are typically not certain about the requirements for a major at UMSL. Students are encouraged to explore majors through professors, advisors, the Career Center, and co-curricular activities during their first semester at UMSL.

Students who have not declared a major at 60 credit hours (junior status) will receive an advising hold and must declare a major with an academic unit before this hold is removed. Transfer students arriving at UMSL with 60 or more credit hours will receive an advising hold preventing them from registering for their second semester until they have declared a major. They can declare a major by following the procedures for a change of major outlined below.

## Exploratory Pathways for Undeclared Major Status

Students who apply with Undeclared Major Status are required to choose an Exploratory Pathway. Exploratory Pathways are designed for students to explore different majors while maintaining a plan for graduation.

The following Exploratory Pathways are offered:

### Business and Geopolitics

The Business and Geopolitics Pathway focuses on markets, trade, and political issues. Students will be exposed to majors that examine domestic and international economic developments, the role that corporations and politics play in global issues, as well as the impact of non-profit agencies to help bring assistance to those in need.

### Creativity and Design

The Creativity and Design Pathway focuses on artistic and innovative perspectives. Students in this pathway tend to be self-starters who plan to create their own path towards a meaningful career in any number of occupations.

### Education and Social Change

The Education and Social Change Pathway focuses on improving society at the grassroots-level. Students will be exposed to majors that prepare educators (both in and out of classroom settings), uncover social issues and assist those in need.

### The Human Experience

The Human Experience Pathway focuses on components of human society and culture. Students will be exposed to majors that examine historical events and their impact on contemporary issues, study similarities and differences of people from other countries, and/or write creative stories or essays. Students in this pathway can expect to explore how to process and document aspects of being a person in the world today.

### The Interconnected World

The Interconnected World Pathway focuses on global issues and concepts. Students will be exposed to majors that examine interconnections between countries and cultures that have developed due to international travel, trade, technological innovations.

### Mathematics and Scientific Research

The Mathematics and Scientific Research Pathway exposes students to majors that examine natural sciences and prepare them for research in a variety of scientific fields. Students interested in health sciences may also consider this Pathway.

### Technology and Innovation

The Technology and Innovation Pathway focuses on technology and the role it plays in society. Students will be exposed to majors that are directly associated with technology in a variety of capacities including research, application, and business. Those interested in these majors should also be prepared for an emphasis in mathematics.

## Change of Major

~~While applying, students are typically not certain about the requirements for a major at UMSL. Students are encouraged to explore majors through professors, advisors, the Career Center, and co-curricular activities during their first semester at UMSL. If they want to change their major, they are encouraged to do so before their second semester at UMSL.~~

To change academic majors, students should consult the advising office of the new major to determine their eligibility and which courses they have already completed apply toward the new major. Students must then ~~submit the~~

~~appropriate forms at the office of the college or school of their new~~ follow the major change procedures as outlined by the registrar.

Rationale

The office of Admissions and the advisors for Undeclared majors have recommended adding and requiring exploratory pathways for undeclared majors to assist in retaining undeclared majors. This will allow advisors to better assist students in choosing general education and prerequisite courses as well as give students a better sense of belonging upon entry. Academic units will have the potential to identify potential majors from the undeclared student population. Information concerning the change of major form has been changed to "procedure" as we anticipate a move to an on-line change of major process in the near future.