

EXPLORATION TO DECLARATION

Undergraduate Advising and Research
First Floor, Sweet Hall
723-2426 for appts.

Choosing Your Major

What is a Major?

- A major is a coherent group of courses that will focus and shape your intellectual skills, development, and experiences.
- A major should interest and excite you.
- A major will take a significant portion of your academic time and course work.
- A major is only one component of your total education.
- A major is an intellectual partnership with faculty and graduate students in your department.
- A major will not necessarily define your career path.

Choosing a Major

- Gather information via the Web or the Stanford Bulletin.
- Talk to faculty, advisors, upper class students, family, and friends about their majors and career choices.
- Visit departments to ask about requirements, advising, and research.
- Explore courses, especially Introductory Seminars.
- Consider combining your interests through an interdisciplinary program, a major and a minor or an interdisciplinary honors program.
- Evaluate your skills: How well do they match your interests? What is your preferred learning mode?
- Narrow your choices.
- Try research.

Remember: The major is YOUR choice (no one else's), and the choice is not binding. You have options to change direction at any time.

Declaring a Major

Every department has its own process for declaring a major. There are two essential steps, and departments vary in their preference for the order of those steps.

- Logon to Axxess, click on Declaration of Major, and follow instructions.
- Go to the department undergraduate office to fill out declaration forms and find an advisor.