



Undecided/Undeclared

Students who enter UCI as freshmen or sophomores may be uncertain about which major they should choose and may not feel ready to declare their major or even to identify their interests with a particular school. Such students participate in the Undecided/Undeclared Advising Program, which, through specialized coursework and individual counseling, helps students make the best informed choice of a major for their particular needs.

Undecided/Undeclared Advising Program

The Undecided/Undeclared Advising Program is designed specifically for first-year students who are undecided about their major. The program includes three key components to promote students' successful transition and development. Undecided/Undeclared students participate in each of the following:

1. University Studies

University Studies 2 (offered in fall and winter quarters only), "UCI Majors," is a 2-unit course that offers guided tour of the entire range of academic majors and minors available at UCI. Topics include major prerequisites, school and major admission requirements, and career decision-making and life planning.

2. Faculty Fairs

"Faculty Fairs" are designed to enhance contact between faculty and freshmen, and to introduce students to the broad array of academic disciplines represented at UCI. These events, in which faculty lead small informal discussions and answer questions, are designed to explore the research or creative productions, methods, and careers associated with the various majors offered at UCI.

3. Academic Advising

The Undecided/Undeclared advising staff is available throughout the academic year to discuss academic issues, such as course scheduling, general education and major requirements, and academic progress. Students meet with an academic advisor each quarter to discuss progress toward a major, declaring a major, and graduating in a timely manner. Beyond the quarterly appointments, the academic counselors and peer academic advisors are also available for drop-ins and scheduled appointments.

Students may also instant-message a question via "Ask an Advisor! Instant Message," which is a real-time chat service provided by the academic advisors in the Undecided/Undeclared Advising Program for current and prospective Undecided/Undeclared students. Advisors are available during selected daytime and evening office hours to answer general questions related to the Undecided/Undeclared Advising Program, degree requirements, general education, course selection and enrollment, summer school, add/drop/change of grade option policies, changing majors, and other topics.

What is a Major?

A major is a field of study or discipline that represents your principal academic interest — such as biological sciences, chemistry, French, music, or sociology. Academic major requirements focus your course of study so that you come away with a thorough knowledge of your chosen discipline. There is not a one-to-one link between a major and a career goal; in fact, any major can lead to any number of careers. A philosophy major may find a career in advertising, banking, or business, or pursue graduate education in the health sciences. A biological sciences or mathematics major might enter sales training for a pharmaceutical company, go into teaching, or pursue graduate education in management. A criminology, law and society major might enter law school or professional education.

Undecided/Undeclared Students

In order to select a major wisely, students should be informed about the academic programs UCI offers. Students should also have a good knowledge of their own abilities and interests, and have clear educational goals for their future. Students in the Undecided/Undeclared Advising Program participate in a variety of activities that assist them in clarifying their interests, setting goals and becoming informed about UCI programs and resources. Quarterly academic advising sessions assist students with planning their academic schedules and provide them with knowledge of campus resources and opportunities. The program recommends that students enroll in University Studies 2, Freshman Seminars and/or First-Year Integrated Program courses. These courses are designed to expose students to a variety of majors and resources as well as academic and research opportunities available on campus. It is hoped that through these activities and courses, and with careful planning, Undecided/Undeclared students will formulate sound educational goals, learn how to prepare for their career goals and/or graduate education, and make the most of their time at UCI.

UCI Housing Option -

First-Year Excellence Program (FYEP)

The First-Year Excellence Program creates a living and learning environment for Undecided/Undeclared students. The program is designed to support first-year students making the transition to university life and help them define their educational goals. FYEP is open only to students who (a) do not plan to declare their major until the end of their first year, (b) have a minimum high school GPA of 3.0, and (c) have demonstrated

leadership abilities. In addition to active participation in residence hall programs and activities, residents may take their University Studies 2 course in the comfort of the hall's living room.

Freshman Seminars

Freshman seminars are designed especially for first-year students and offer an exciting opportunity to broaden a student's academic horizons. These 1-unit courses are limited to 15 students and meet once a week for an hour throughout the quarter. Seminars are offered in a wide range of disciplines with topics varying for fall, winter, and spring quarters. Freshman Seminars introduce students to the research university and encourage them to become active participants in intellectual interactions with their peers and professors. With small classes led by faculty, the seminars emphasize analysis and communication, and give faculty and students a chance to explore academic topics and new lines of inquiry in a supportive, interactive, and congenial setting. For more information, please view the Freshman Seminar Web site at www.freshmanseminar.uci.edu

First-Year Integrated Program (FIP)

University Studies 11-15 courses are three-quarter multidisciplinary sequences for freshmen only. These integrated courses are designed to introduce students to the ways different disciplines approach similar problems and to provide a freshman learning-community experience. Successful completion of all three quarters will satisfy four courses toward partial fulfillment of different general education requirement categories. These courses are designed to have a capstone research writing component in the third quarter that will satisfy the second quarter of the lower-division writing requirement — one of the four courses toward partial fulfillment of general education categories. Students must concurrently enroll in Writing 39B in either the fall or winter quarter and pass it with a grade of C or better.

International Study and Travel Programs

Undecided/Undeclared students are eligible to participate in study-abroad programs as early as the summer of their freshman year via the UCI Summer Travel-Study Programs and the UCI Center for International Education (CIE), which includes the Education Abroad Program and International Opportunities Program. CIE is a comprehensive resource, counseling, and preparation center that helps students take advantage of the many worldwide opportunities that exist for study, work, internship, volunteering, research, and non-credentialed teaching. Participating in an international educational experience typically introduces students to ways of thinking different from their own, broadens their understanding of the historical and contemporary world, sharpens their interest in particular fields, and enhances their own overall intellectual development. More information can be found at www.cie.uci.edu and www.summer.uci.edu/travelstudy.

Education Abroad Program (EAP)

Students in all majors are encouraged to enhance their UCI education by studying abroad. There are programs for every major and opportunities in more than 50 countries. Early academic planning is encouraged so

that you can find the program that is the best match for you and graduate on time. Financial aid, including scholarship, grants and loans, applies to most study-abroad programs. Studying abroad helps UCI graduates achieve the academic, personal, and professional skills necessary to be well-informed, engaged members of the global society. Learn more at www.cie.uci.edu.

International Opportunities Program (IOP)

Many Undecided/Undeclared students apply to study, travel, or work abroad. The International Opportunities Program is the link between UCI students and any international educational experience that occurs outside the boundaries of the United States that is not part of EAP. CIE staff provide information and counseling to assist students in finding an appropriate program to meet their needs and interests. Students may choose from academic study (with transferable credit), paid work, paid or unpaid internships, unpaid or compensated volunteer service, field research, and paid teaching opportunities in nearly every country in the world.

Academic Internship Programs (UCDC and UCCS)

The UC Washington DC (UCDC) and UC Center Sacramento (UCCS) Academic Internship Programs offer undergraduate students from all majors the opportunity to participate in internships, elective courses, and research in our nation's or state capital. The UCDC academic program is offered in fall, winter, or spring quarters, whereas UCCS is offered in winter, spring, or summer.

In both programs, a wide variety of internships are available, and participants are enrolled at UCI as full-time students. Financial aid eligibility is maintained. As students from all UC campuses live together, they form a social and intellectual community throughout the quarter. Both programs recommend a 3.0 overall GPA and junior-level standing or above. For further information, contact 1100 Student Services II; telephone (949) 824-5400; e-mail: dccenter@uci.edu; Web (UCDC) : www.dccenter.uci.edu; or (UCCS): <http://uccs.universityofcalifornia.edu>.

Note that the UCI Career Center also offers non-academic summer programs in Washington DC that are open to any class level. More information can be found at www.career.uci.edu/.

How to Choose a Major

In choosing your major you will need to learn as much as you can about areas of study that interest you. Take into consideration your skills, abilities, and interests, and decide what your favorite subjects are and whether you want to continue to pursue them. Choosing a major requires that you look well ahead in your decision and think about it carefully, keeping in mind that some major programs have quite specific course requirements in the freshman and sophomore years. If you need more information about a specific area of study at UCI, we encourage you to contact an academic counselor in that school or in the Undecided/Undeclared Advising Office.

Changing Majors

All students are required to choose a major by the time they reach junior status. It is important that students select their courses wisely so that they satisfy requirements while simultaneously exploring majors. To change into certain majors you must complete

prerequisite courses in advance. For more information, students should consult with their academic counselor.

Your Course of Study

A course of study is composed of:

- University of California graduation requirements
- UCI graduation requirements — these include the general education requirements which comprise courses in each of the following nine areas: writing; science and technology; art and humanities; quantitative, symbolic, and computational reasoning; language other than English, multicultural studies; international/global issues and laboratory or performance.
- School and departmental requirements (including those for the major you select)
- Electives

The different types of requirements frequently overlap. For example, you may find that a course required for your major also helps to fulfill part of the general education requirement or meets a requirement for a minor or for a double major (should you choose to pursue one of those options). You also have the opportunity to "elect" or choose courses that are of particular interest to you but which are not required for your course of study. You are encouraged to become involved in a variety of educational experiences such as independent study, laboratory research, field study, writing workshops, computing, and fine arts productions.

Additional Information

Undecided/Undeclared Advising

256 Aldrich Hall
Irvine, CA 92697-5675
Telephone: (949) 824-6987
www.due.uci.edu

Admissions and Relations with Schools

204 Aldrich Hall
University of California
Irvine, CA 92697-1075
Telephone: (949) 824-6703
www.admissions.uci.edu

General Campus Information

Telephone: (949) 824-5011
www.uci.edu
UCI General Catalogue
UCI Bookstore
Telephone: (949) 824-2665
www.book.uci.edu
www.editor.uci.edu/catalogue (PDF Version)

Accommodations: Upon request, this publication will be made available in alternative formats for people with disabilities. Contact the UCI Disability Services Center; telephone (949) 824-7494, TDD 824-6272. The campus and all buildings are accessible by wheelchair.

Campus Safety: Pursuant to the Federal Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act, UCI annually makes available to the public statistics on reported occurrences of criminal activity on and off campus and at UCI Medical Center at www.police.uci.edu/awareness/jca.html.

Nondiscrimination Policy: The University of California, in accordance with applicable Federal and State law and University policy, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, pregnancy, physical or mental disability, medical condition (cancer related or genetic characteristics), ancestry, marital status, age, sexual orientation, citizenship, or service in the uniformed services. The University also prohibits sexual harassment. This nondiscrimination policy covers admission, access, and treatment in University programs and activities. For more information, call (949) 824-5594.