



File photo

Finances, full classes and indecision on a major are just a few of the reasons why students are taking longer to graduate these days.

GRADUATE

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and problems, not with the University itself.

The number one reason cited by students in Morgen's survey was indecision about choice of major or career field.

"People wind up as juniors and seniors without deciding what they want to major in," said Frank Anderson, head of the undergraduate education task force, which is examining the factors that prolong students' stay at the University. "Or they spend two years as an English major and then decide they want to change to physics."

Senior Walter Smith, who plans to graduate this term with a degree in English, changed his major twice after enrolling at the University five years ago. He originally planned to major in leisure studies, then switched to accounting before settling on English.

Smith said disappointment in college curriculum was part of the reason he changed his major.

"I was searching for a kind of ideal," he said.

Working through school

For many others, including increasing numbers of older or returning students, personal issues — often financial issues — interrupt their college progress.

More than a third of the students who responded to Morgen's survey said financial issues had prolonged their undergraduate education.

"People are working, putting themselves through school," Anderson said.

For example, Jennifer Echols, who will graduate this term with bachelor's degrees in international studies and economics, has had to stop and earn money intermittently

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