

# Resources available to assist with declaring major

■ Beginning each year, there are about 2,400 University students who haven't yet selected an area of study

By Maggie Young  
Oregon Daily Emerald

When art history graduate student Kate Ryan signed up for a class that accidentally led her to her major, she joined a large group of students on campus who spend a great deal of time choosing a major and who are satisfied in the end.

"I tried to choose a major by choosing a career, but that didn't work," Ryan said. "What worked was taking classes I enjoy that led me to my major."

An abundance of ways to find a major, as well as willing advi-

sors, are available on campus to those students who have an undeclared major status.

At the beginning of each academic year, approximately 2,400 students are registered at the University with an undeclared major status.

This figure generally decreases as the year goes on and students experience different courses, said Joe Wade, director of the Office of Academic Advising and Student Services.

On average, college students change majors two-and-a-half times during their college careers, and some will change three or four times, Wade said.

Students are trying to make decisions for the next 20 to 30 years of their lives when they should be thinking about the next four years

at this University, Wade said.

"Students are incorrectly trying to equate their life's work

Undeclared students should not worry too much about their status, Wade said.

“Students are incorrectly trying to equate their life's work with their major at this University. Developing communication skills, the capacity to learn things in an academic basis and developing a track record are things that everyone should be working on.”

Joe Wade  
director, Office of Academic Advising and Student Services

with their major at this University," Wade said. "Developing communication skills, the capacity to learn things in an academic basis and developing a track record are things that everyone should be working on."

"To be undeclared is not unheard of," Wade said. "It's nothing to be overly concerned about during the freshman year and the beginning of sophomore year."

A time does come when it is necessary to begin worrying

about an undeclared status. Students should come to a decision at some point in their sophomore year, Wade said.

A few simple things can make the decision easier for those searching for a major, said Lorraine Davis, vice-provost for academic affairs. These include making an appointment to talk to an academic advisor, speaking with faculty, meeting with advisors in areas you're interested in and visiting the Career Center.

Davis advises that people who are undeclared use their time as a transition and to move forward and take advantage of their resources.

"Many people aren't thinking enough," Davis said. "Your period of being undeclared should be an organized period of inquiry."

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