

## Are you Having a Major Dilemma?

Most students do not enter college knowing exactly what they want to do with their lives. A majority of students change their majors or career focus at least once during college. With all the career and major paths open to students—making a choice can be overwhelming! If you are undecided about your major, you need to carefully plan with an advisor so you stay on the right track while you're exploring.

### ◆ Tip 1: Know Yourself (Do you know the answers to these questions?)

Why are you choosing to go to college now?

What type of classes have you enjoyed in the past?

What are your personal strengths?

⇒ You can schedule an appointment with the Career Center to take personality and/or career interest tests.

### ◆ Tip 2: Know Your “Major” Options

⇒ Each university has a big list of undergraduate majors that can be overwhelming.

Start there and cross out the majors you KNOW you are not interested in. There! You made a decision.

⇒ Now gather information about the majors left. For each major, ask: What **types of jobs** do graduates in this major usually find? What is the **average salary** for a graduate from this major? Are the **courses in this major** interesting to me? Does this major give me **options in the future**?

A **MAJOR** is an area of study you focus on at the Bachelor degree level. Use your time wisely at Bellevue College to learn about and prepare for possible majors **AFTER** you transfer.

### ◆ Tip 3: GPA Matters

⇒ One of the most important factors in transferring to a 4-year university is your GPA (Grade Point Average).

When considering a major, think about the types of classes you will be successful in.

⇒ While you can work hard to improve your skills in any subject, you should seriously consider majoring in an area where you have more academic strengths than weaknesses. If you hate Math, majoring in Engineering will probably not be the best option.

### ◆ Tip 4: Start Thinking About Transfer Universities

⇒ Once you choose a major you'll need to think about what university/program to transfer to. Each University program has different prerequisites that you may need to complete before you are admitted. You'll need to keep up-to-date on the requirements of these programs so that you can properly plan your education here at BC. Additionally, some universities also offer transfer planning worksheets for specific major. See those offered by UW Seattle here: <http://admit.washington.edu/apply/transfer/tools/academic-planning-worksheets/>

### ◆ Tip 5: Work/Volunteer Experience

⇒ Not sure if you want to teach small children or work in a hospital? Get out there and try it! Internships/volunteer/job experience are great ways to learn about the “real life” components of different careers you might be interested in.

#### Things to Do List for Undecided Students:

1. Read Tip 1-5 above and try to answer the questions.
2. Consider taking a course like HD 173 Career Exploration or HD 125 Motivation and Empowerment
3. Interview people in possible career fields you are interested in: How did they get there (which degree did they choose?) What do they do and what advice do they have for students trying to decide?
4. Attend information sessions and transfer events for a variety of different programs on campus.
5. Check BC and local university events calendars and schedule a tour of universities you are thinking about
6. **Meet with an Academic Advisor and a Career Counselor**
7. Go to the BC transfer fairs

(FALL: September 26th 2018, WINTER: January 2019, Date TBA SPRING: April 2019, Date TBA in the Cafeteria)

## So... At What Point Should you Choose a Major?

Some students mistakenly believe that they can put off choosing a major until they transfer to a 4-year University. Transfer colleges and universities are expecting you to be **major ready** the moment you are accepted. This means that you should know your major and have completed any necessary prerequisite courses before you are admitted. This doesn't mean that you are bound to this major and have to stick with it forever; however, you may have to take a few extra classes at the university level if you do decide to switch pathways.

What does this mean while you're a student at BC? Even though you may not have a major yet, you need to seriously start thinking about **general tracks** and **four-year schools** you might be interested in. Every university and specific major will have different requirements for admission. You are responsible for checking with universities about specific prerequisites and the classes that you can take at BC to fulfill them; an academic advisor here can help you plan out those courses. As an undecided student, you will most likely be using the **Associate in Arts and Sciences– Direct Transfer Degree**.

## I'm still undecided... what are some classes I should take?

The following is a general idea of what some tracks require and **good classes to take during your first year** (*some pre-college classes may be required before these depending on your COMPASS scores*)

<u>Science</u>	<u>Business</u>	<u>Arts and Humanities/ Social Sciences</u>	<u>Engineering</u>
ENGL& 101	ENGL& 101	ENGL& 101	ENGL& 101
MATH& 151	ENGL& 201	ENGL& 271 or 201	MATH& 151
MATH& 152	MATH& 138	Math: Math 107	MATH& 152
MATH& 153	MATH& 148	*Depends on	MATH& 153
BIOL& 160	ECON&201	Placement	PHYS 121
CHEM& 140	ECON&202	2 Humanities Courses	CHEM& 140
CHEM& 161	BA 240	2 Social Science Courses	CHEM& 161
CHEM& 162	1 Natural Science	1 Natural Science	Cultural Diversity Class
CHEM& 163	1 Humanities	Cultural Diversity Class	
1 Humanities or Social Science	Cultural Diversity class		Leads to: Associate in Science Track II-MRP
Cultural Diversity class	Leads to: Associate in Business– DTA/MRP	Leads to: Associate in Arts and Sciences– DTA	
Leads to: Associate in Science Track I			

### Do I need to take a Foreign Language at Bellevue College?

BC does not have a foreign language requirement. **HOWEVER**, if you want to transfer to a university to earn a Bachelor degree, most require at least two years of the same foreign language in high school or two quarters in college.

### Contact us for more information:

#### Need help picking classes?

Schedule an appointment with an Academic Advisor by calling 425-564-2212 or by stopping by the Advising Front Desk on the 2nd floor of the B Building.

You can also email questions to [advising@bellevuecollege.edu](mailto:advising@bellevuecollege.edu).

#### Need more career information?

Schedule an appointment with a Career Services Specialist by calling 425-564-2279.

**Degree Worksheets:** Check out Bellevue College degree requirements at [www.bellevuecollege.edu/worksheets](http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/worksheets)