

Pathway Advising

Metamajors and Services for Undecided Services

Undecided / Undeclared

Most curricular plans presume students have the major in mind as of their initial semester.

Roughly 25% of UWM's new freshmen are undecided at the time of application

- 10% of new transfer applicants
- Others are Undecided but may not know it – 33% change majors (national estimate)

Undecided students lag behind in one year retention by 6%, but this gap disappears if students choose a major within their first year.

Undecided / Undeclared

We don't know what students mean by "undecided":

- Need more information: *I don't know what you have*
- Need more context: *I know what I want to do, but the connection to a major isn't clear/intuitive*
- Need more readiness: *I want to keep my options open*

Metamajor Pathways

- Arts, Design and Innovation
- Business, Industry and Applied Technology
- Engineering and Natural Science
- Health
- Humanities and Communication
- Social and Behavioral Sciences
- ... or remain Undecided

Advising Techniques

- **Intake Needs:** Determine what "undecided" means for each student
- **Flipped Appointments:** New students attending orientation late in the summer have *earlier* Fall advising appointments
- **Proactive Scheduling:** students leave each appointment with the next one set
- **Curricular Connections:** Ed Psy 110: Choosing Your Major/Career creates structure/intentionality for decision-making
- **Motivational Interviewing** and **Coaching** approaches