



THE UNDECIDED MAJOR

As a student just beginning your college education, you will probably be asked one question more than any other: “What’s your major?” You might be embarrassed not to have an answer. Perhaps you haven’t had the chance to explore the many areas of study available to you. Or maybe you have such broad interests that you don’t yet want to concentrate on just one.

If you are an undecided major, you’ll find yourself in good company at Illinois Wesleyan. Fully one-fifth of our freshmen enroll as undecided, making it one of our most popular “majors.” In addition, many Illinois Wesleyan students change their fields of study two, three or even four times during their college careers. At Illinois Wesleyan, we encourage you to explore the variety of academic disciplines we offer before you make your decision.

THE GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

An excellent way to get a taste of our many academic programs is through the general education requirements. These are a wide range of courses representing several different academic areas, such as literature, computer science, foreign language and the fine arts. Because Illinois Wesleyan is a liberal arts institution, we feel our students benefit from exposure to a variety of disciplines and the broad education they provide.

Use the general education requirements to explore areas of interest to you. Then talk with your instructors to find out more about the fields you enjoy. Don’t worry that you may fall behind by taking courses from several disciplines; the majority of our programs are flexible enough that you can declare a major during your second semester or in your sophomore year and still have time to complete all necessary classes.

WORKING WITH YOUR ADVISOR

Your academic advisor, who assists you in schedule planning and class registration, will also help you choose a major. By working together closely, you and your advisor will define personal interests and choose the program that most closely matches them. If you would like to pursue study in more than one program, your advisor can also help plan a double major or an area of minor concentration.

Additional advising is available through the Career Center. The Center’s staff of practicing professionals provides individual counseling and conducts group workshops to help you investigate career choices related to your major. If you are interested in a pre-professional program or in eventual graduate study, you may meet with members of the Pre-Medical, Pre-Engineering, Pre-Law, or Pre-Graduate Business Advisory Committees. The faculty on these committees supply you with current information on graduate schools and professional issues in their respective fields.

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DESIGNING YOUR OWN MAJOR

If we do not offer a major that suits your interests, in some instances, you may design your own special interdisciplinary “contract” major, combining courses from many departments. Past contract majors have included programs in international political economics, psycho-linguistics and artificial intelligence. If you choose the contract option, you must apply through the Registrar’s Office prior to the end of your junior year; your application must be accompanied by recommendations from the chairs of each of the departments involved.

Whatever path of study you decide to take, we’d like to reassure you an undeclared major is not a cause to worry. By exploring different courses and taking advantage of academic advising, you are most likely to find the major that best suits your skills and interests.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information about the academic program and the faculty visit our website at:

<http://www2.iwu.edu/academics/departments>

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AT ILLINOIS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

Majors

Accounting	Hispanic Studies
American Studies	History
Anthropology	International Business
Art	International Studies
Biology	Mathematics
Business Administration	Music
Chemistry	Philosophy
Computer Science	Physics
Economics	Political Science
Educational Studies	Psychology
English	Religion
Environmental Studies	Risk Management
French	Sociology
German	Theatre Arts
Greek and Roman Studies	Women’s Studies

Pre-Professional Programs

Pre-Dentistry	Pre-Occupational Therapy
Pre-Engineering*	Pre-Physical Therapy
Pre-Forestry**	Pre-Veterinary Medicine
Pre-Law	
Pre-Medicine	

* in cooperation with Case Western Reserve University, Dartmouth College, Northwestern University, Washington University and the University of Illinois.

** in cooperation with Duke University.