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Thursday, 08 November 2012 15:24

Selecting a major is certainly a challenge, especially when students are unsure of their future goals. Fortunately, when a wrong choice is made, there are steps students can take to change their academic plan.

1. Talk to your academic adviser.

Academic advisers have students' best interest in mind. Speaking with someone who knows the proper facts can help students make the right decisions.

"First and foremost, I would strongly encourage students to talk to their advisers before they make their mind up on changing their majors. In some cases, students make up their minds about changing majors, but they do not have all the information to make a sound judgment," Matthew Murray, College of Business academic adviser, said.

2. Do your research.

Exploring other majors will help students make an educated choice. Speak to students who have pursued other plans of study in order to learn more about them.

"In a nut shell, do your homework about what major to take. This includes knowing when the deadlines are for applying to majors and know the number one indicator of getting into the major of your dreams is your cumulative GPA," Erik Rankin, Politics and Government undergraduate adviser, said.

3. Find out how a major change will alter your graduation plan.

Students can map out a full plan of study before pursuing a new major. Depending on certain major changes and when the change is made, students will still be able to graduate in four years.

“Your adviser can help you make a plan of study that can minimize the stress and get you to graduation,” Rajat Mitra, College of Education academic adviser, said.

4. Be confident.

Stressing over a major change isn’t worth it. Feeling confident in academic progress will help students accomplish their goals.

“I knew I wanted something different, academically, for my major, but I was hesitant. But then I thought, I know I can transfer into the new major I want and still graduate on time, and I did. It was worth it,” Patrick Donlan, senior psychology major, said.

5. If you can’t make a change, make the most out of your situation.

When it’s too late for a major change, find new ways to learn about different areas of study.

“A lot of learning takes place outside of the classroom and even volunteering for an organization or charity can help students network and make contacts that would benefit him or her later on, regardless of what their major is,” Murray said.

Luckily, there is a large number of extracurricular activities on campus for students to explore.

“The experiences in college that help you develop into a more responsible, capable and knowledgeable person are important aspects of being a student,” Mitra said.