

# Exploratory/Undecided Students

## Not sure about what you'd like to major in? No problem.

Approximately, 25% of first-year students entering Southeast each year declare *Exploratory/Undecided* and half of all Southeast students will change their major at least once. It is perfectly fine to not have it all figured out right away, but being proactive in the search for the right major is vital. This handout will provide insight on how to successfully navigate the exploratory process and will identify resources students can/should utilize along the way.

## Credit Timeline

### 0-15 credit hours

Now is the time to be thinking about your interests, skill areas, values, etc. and how they may translate to potential majors/career paths. You should create a general list of possible major/career paths.

### 24-30 credit hours

Now is the time to move from thinking about your interests, skill areas, etc. to narrowing down your list of potential majors/careers. Go more in depth with your research for each listed item to see if your interest in them still remains.

### 36-45 credit hours

You should now be moving to the final step of your exploratory process and begin to pinpoint a direction or identify your major. Upon reaching this credit hour span, you're getting close to a point of delay in your academic progress, as it will become more challenging, moving forward, to register for courses without having a direction or specific major identified.

**Please Note:** There are some majors (Ex. Education, Nursing, etc.) which are very prescribed, starting during a student's first semester. So, waiting too long to go into one of those majors could cause a prolonged academic experience. Students should consult with their academic advisor for a full list of these types of majors.

## ATTENTION!

Exploratory Students entering Southeast with existing credits will want to start this process ahead of their arrival, so they are poised to enroll in courses which will keep them on track to meet their goals.

## Resources

### On-line

Students have 24/7 access to the [Career Decision-Making Model](#), developed and provided by the Office of Career Services. This model guides students step-by-step; as they use resources to learn more about themselves, explore major & career options, and more!

### University Staff

When it comes to major and/or career decisions, there are two staff positions which stand out: Academic Advisors and Career Counselors. An exploratory student working in conjunction with both puts themselves firmly in the driver seat to make the best decision.

For more information on identifying your academic advisor, the advising process and additional resources, checkout the website below:

[www.semo.edu/advising](http://www.semo.edu/advising)

For more information on the Office of Career Services, scheduling an appointment with a Career Counselor, and additional resources, checkout the website below:

[www.semo.edu/careers](http://www.semo.edu/careers)