

Transition to the Major Module

This optional module asks respondents about their experiences in selecting a major. It is appropriate for students who have not yet declared a major as well as those who have declared a major. Because many institutions report student attrition at this point in college, this information may be useful to help campuses investigate difficulty at this important transition stage.

1. In thinking about declaring a major, how helpful were the following?

(Responses: Very Helpful, Somewhat Helpful, Not Very Helpful, Not Helpful at all, Did not use/do)

Taking a variety of classes from different programs/majors
Exploring how a major leads to specific career options
Finding a supportive faculty member in the major
Talking to an upperclass student in the major
Figuring out my career plans
Talking to a counselor/academic advisor
Finding a major that has a welcoming environment

2. Indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements:

(Responses: Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree)

There are too many steps to declare a major here
I think it does not matter what my major is, only that I obtain a degree
The availability of jobs is an important consideration for me in choosing a major
I do not know what I want to do in life
Regardless of my choice of major, the skills I gain in college will be applicable to any future career
I think my major should be closely linked to my intended career
I will be/was unable to get into my first-choice major
I do not know enough about majors to choose
I feel pressure from my parents/guardians to pursue a particular major
Information distributed on majors is useful
It is important that I find my major interesting, regardless of how “practical” it is
This campus has many events/activities to help students choose a major
The current economy has led me to question my major choice
I am likely to pursue my major at another institution

3. Have you officially declared your major?

Yes
No

IF MAJOR IS NOT DECLARED, THEN STUDENT IS FINISHED WITH THIS SECTION OF THE SURVEY.

3a. In thinking about your primary major, indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following:

(Responses: Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree)

- I had expected to get better grades than the grades I have earned so far
- Faculty are approachable
- I feel confident I will succeed
- I have a peer support network among students
- The faculty and staff demonstrate a strong commitment to diversity
- There is a sense of competition between students
- There is high quality teaching
- Faculty are interested in my development as a student
- My parents/guardians are supportive of my choice of major
- I am considering changing my major in the future

3b. How many times have you changed your major (either officially or unofficially) since entering this college?

- None
- One
- Two
- Three
- Four
- Five or more

IF STUDENT ANSWERS NONE, THEN STUDENT IS FINISHED WITH THIS SECTION, OTHERWISE GOES ON TO NEXT QUESTION

3b1. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following:

(Responses: Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree)

- Courses in my previous major were too difficult
- My previous major was not a good fit for me
- Students were too competitive in my previous major
- I was not able to take the courses I needed in my previous major
- My academic interests have changed
- My career goals have changed
- Courses in my previous major required too much time
- Course materials were too expensive in my previous major
- I expect to earn better grades in my current major than in my previous major