

Option for Undeclared Students at Norfolk State University

A great start...

Nationally, almost 50% of students entering colleges and universities are undecided about their academic and career goal. (*Number of Undecided Majors Growing - Are You One of Them?*) Additionally, about 75% of students in colleges and universities change their majors at least once before graduation. (*The Transition to College*). An option at Norfolk State University provides undeclared students the opportunity to establish educational and career goals, explore various careers and majors at NSU and learn what potential careers may match their interests and skills. The Undeclared Option is a way for students to learn more about personal career goals before declaring a major. If a student is uncertain about a major or career goal, the Undeclared Option is an excellent way for students to explore different career choices. By choosing the Undeclared Option, students are more likely to choose the right major the first time.



Number of Undecided Majors Growing - Are You One of Them? (n.d.) Retrieved September 26, 2008, from <http://www.ptk.org>

The Transition to College (n.d.) Retrieved September 26, 2008 from <http://www.pace.edu>

Advantages of the Undeclared Option

- Students meet with the Coordinator of Undeclared Services who assists them with career exploration and the career decision-making process.
- Students will be provided with an environment to explore different career options and discuss scholarship opportunities with faculty in various academic departments.
- Students work with academic advisors to discuss various career paths and possible majors and careers.
- Students can take advantage of career counseling and various career development resources, which include:
 - Computer assisted individual assessment.
 - Occupational reference resources and access to personality and interest inventories.
 - Career planning software (Discover, KUDER, Resume Creator, Career Portfolio).
 - GST-180 (Career Exploration) course is designed to help students explore careers and majors and to assist them deciding on a major.



"Students' expectations must match reality, they must be challenged, and they must make connections with their teachers and their peers."

— Dr. Vincent Tinto

Services Available for Undeclared Students

- One-on-one academic advising with professional advisors.
- Career counseling and numerous career development resources.
- Female and Male Mentoring Programs promotes the overall development of students and fosters their intellectual, personal, and professional growth.
- Peer Mentoring/Advising will assist with academic and social acclimation for new or transfer students.
- Free individual and group tutoring, review sessions, and study halls.
- Workshops for the Exam of Writing Competency (EWC) workshops.
- Supplemental Instruction (SI) is designed to improve students' grades.
- Instructional Computer Lab provides software for basic skill enhancement, Career Exploration, Calculus, Grammar, Accounting, and more.
- Academic Skills Seminars (Time Management, Study Skills, Note-taking, Career Information and Awareness, and more).
- Annual Career Fairs and Career Services.



Mission of ACCESS

The Academy for Collegiate Excellence and Student Success (ACCESS) is a multi-faceted, comprehensive program designed to provide academic support services to NSU students. Academic advising, an integral part of ACCESS, emphasizes assisting students in strengthening basic skills, reinforcing classroom instruction, and enhancing overall academic, personal, and professional development.

The ACCESS program is under the Office of First Year Experience and is supported in part by Title III Grants.

Academic Advising

Academic advising includes all factors and processes that impact students' academic success. Advising is an ongoing relationship. Advising is a process involving much more than scheduling courses and providing signatures. Advising provides students with a person whom they can turn to with confidence when they need help with academic skills.



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Achieving With Excellence

**ACADEMY FOR COLLEGIATE
EXCELLENCE AND STUDENT
SUCCESS (ACCESS)**

Services for Undeclared Students



**Norfolk State University
Office of First Year Experience**

NSU