

Career development services and resources for students in the Undeclared Option

Individual Career Counseling

Individual Academic Advisement

Career Library

Occupational and employer literature

Career Forums

Occupational reference resources

Career Development Courses

“The Job Connection”

Internet access and web pages

Career workshops

Access to personality and interest inventories

Transfer Guides for Career Planning

Computer-assisted individual assessment (DISCOVER and FOCUS)

Options Newsletter

Academic Advisement Center

Liberal Arts Mentor Program

In addition, each semester a specialized workshop on Career Decision Making is offered exclusively for Undeclared students!



Objectives for Advising Undeclared Students at

Monroe Community College

Monroe Community College is committed to a developmental Academic Advisement process which integrates students' personal and academic goals, addresses their cognitive and social development, and establishes the relationship between education and life experiences. – Academic Advisement Council, 1999

Our objectives for advising Undeclared students are to:

- Explain the process of career and life planning, which can be applied to make appropriate life and career choices.
- Encourage course selection based on interests, values, and skills as a way to explore possible career and educational direction.
- Explain how course selection applies to general education or other degree requirements.
- Encourage students to reflect upon their own decision-making styles and strategies.
- Inform students of their option for seeking individual academic advisement with the Academic Advisement Specialist.
- Share information on how to access and utilize occupational resources to further clarify and confirm tentative career choices.
- Assist them with creating strategies to overcome barriers to career-decision making.
- Inform students changing out of the Undeclared Option of new advisement options in their new program of study.

If your son or daughter is in the process of applying for admission and has questions, please call:

Admissions Office—(585) 292-2200

If your son or daughter has already been admitted as an Undeclared student and would like further information about the program, please call (585) 292-2293.



MONROE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

A Parent's Guide to Career Decision Making



What can—or should— you do to support your undecided college student?

What does it mean to be “Undeclared”?



Being Undeclared at MCC allows students to take time to learn more about themselves and their career goals before declaring a major.

Your son or daughter is attending MCC but is uncertain as to what he or she wants to major in, let alone choose as a career. Don't be worried. Nationally, 20% to 50% of students entering college are undecided about academic or career goals. Here at MCC, the Undeclared Option is the 3rd largest major! Choosing a career is a process, one that continues for a lifetime. The important first step to choosing an appropriate career is beginning the process of self-assessment.

The Career Decision-Making Process

1. Self- Assessment: examining personality traits, skills, values, interests, abilities
2. Exploring majors and career options
3. Experimenting with possible career options
4. Organizing and conducting a job or transfer school search



Commonly Asked Questions:

Why do some entering college students declare a major and others want to remain “undeclared”?

All entering college students are “undeclared” to some degree. Some students are confident enough in their current interests to declare their major in the beginning. However, if your son or daughter has many interests and a difficult time choosing between them, wants to learn about different majors and career possibilities, wants to learn more about themselves, or feels pressured to choose a major, the Undeclared Option is the right choice for them!



“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.”
- Eleanor Roosevelt

How will my “undeclared” son or daughter know what courses to take that will apply to a future degree and/or transfer?

It is very important that students in the Undeclared Option seek advisement every semester.

Advisors can assist with course selection, show students general education requirements common to most degree programs. Most degrees include a broad base of Liberal Arts

courses so students are able to fulfill requirements while selecting courses based on interests.

How can career counseling benefit my student?

Career counselors can assist by helping clarify current educational and career goals. They can help assess personality, interests, abilities, and skills. They can also provide career information as well as make referrals to other career resources on and off campus. Career counseling is available on a walk-in basis or by appointment. Career counseling is free of charge and is available at the Counseling & Advising Center, Career Center and DCC Student Services.

Who will be my son or daughter’s academic advisor?

Your son or daughter has the opportunity to work with the Academic Advisement Specialist who will assist with course selection and career exploration. Students also have the option of seeing advisors, counselors, or faculty in the Advisement Center or joining the Liberal Arts Mentor Program.

Suggestions for Parents...

Don't insist upon a decision about a major or possible career choice immediately. If you sense that your student's indecision is a barrier to positive progress, urge that he or she look for assistance on campus. Students often have difficulty making a “final” choice because they fear they may close off other options and make a wrong choice.

Affirm what you know to be areas of skill and ability he or she has consistently demonstrated. Sometimes students overlook these.

Support your student's exploration of new areas of study and interests. This, after all, is what education is all about.

Don't panic if your student picks a major that you feel is impractical, like art history or sociology. These can be excellent choices, if they are a good match for your student's interests. Also, many times employers are looking for skills and internship experiences, not necessarily what degree they possess.

Urge them to seek assistance! It is critical for students to be making connections on campus with faculty and professional staff who can help them. Undeclared students should meet on an individual basis with an academic advisor each semester.

