An academic major represents each student’s principal interest and the majority of his or her efforts during their undergraduate studies. Each major’s core curriculum covers a range of subjects that provide the student with a solid foundation in their chosen field of study.

Upon entering UF as a freshman, students are encouraged to declare the major that she or he is most likely to pursue. Students may declare Exploratory if they are unsure. In their first few terms, students should take courses to explore multiple academic areas. Many students have varied interests and will graduate with minors, certificates, double majors, dual degrees and/or combined degrees.

Exploring Areas of Interest

Exploring areas of interest early helps students determine whether they want to pursue additional academic programs. In addition, quite a few students change majors in their first or second year, so exploring multiple areas early helps students to confirm his or her choice of major or identify a more desirable major.

Declaring an Exploratory Category

First-year students with no major preference can declare one of three exploratory categories (humanities and letters, social and behavioral sciences, or science and engineering) for the first three fall/spring terms. Exploratory students are advised by the Academic Advising Center and affiliated with the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Exploratory students should be purposeful in all of their decisions, particularly when it comes to choosing classes for each semester to be sure they are taking courses to explore potential majors. They must also actively work to narrow down UF majors to one that fits their aspirations and abilities.

It’s not unusual for students to change their minds about majors and career paths as they gain educational and practical experience. To help ensure that students make the best choices regarding their major and degree, UF provides guidance, information, and technical assistance. Students should proactively determine their major to obtain the degree that fits them best instead of being forced to select a major due to pending academic deadlines.

There is often little relationship between undergraduate degrees and specific types of employment. A specific major does not guarantee employment in a specific field, nor does a specific major limit employment to a specific field.

Ways to Explore Areas of Study at UF

Review the Undergraduate Majors

Students should search for majors that interest them and explore required courses; they should also speak to faculty or advisors in those departments.

Use ONE.UF to Explore Majors by Subject Area, College, or Major

Current students can use What-If reports in ONE.UF to discover if coursework they have taken applies toward a given major’s requirements. For additional information, students should contact the department offering the degree or the advising office of the appropriate college.