

# Declaring Your Major: A Checklist

**Still wondering about your choice of majors? Here are some steps to take:**

- ☐ *What matters to you?* Make a list of your personal, academic, & professional interests.
- ☐ *What do you want to accomplish?* Write down your personal goals.
- ☐ *What have you enjoyed learning about in the classroom?* Consider your most successful and enjoyable courses.
- ☐ *What courses sound interesting to you for upcoming semesters?* Consult departmental websites and the Registrar's site for course descriptions.
- ☐ *What have you enjoyed learning about on your own?* Think about the books and other sources of information that have meant the most to you.
- ☐ *What have you learned from your clubs and groups?* Think about your most meaningful extra-curricular activities.
- ☐ *What have you learned on the job?* List your most valuable job experiences.
- ☐ *What have you learned from volunteering?* List your most valuable volunteering experiences.
- ☐ *How much information have you gathered about your potential major?* Talk with your pre-major adviser, with departmental advisers, with your instructors, and with students who are members of departmental undergraduate councils. Review the descriptions of majors on departmental websites.
- ☐ *How much information have you gathered about what you can do with your potential major in the future?* Check out the Career Center's web-based and print resources, especially the "What Can I Do With My Major" sections. Meet with one of the Career Center staff members to talk over your interests.
- ☐ *What do your upcoming semesters look like?* Try out various 8-semester plans; blank copies are available in each semester's course schedule.

**Questions:**

**Ready to declare your major? Here are the steps to follow:**

- ☐ Locate a copy of the "blue concentration form." All students receive a copy of this form, with a letter from the Dean of Sophomores, in February of their sophomore year. You also may obtain the form at any time from the Academic Services Counter at Lattimore 312.
- ☐ Print a copy of your academic record from Access for reference.
- ☐ Review the requirements for the major you have chosen by going to the department's office or website, or reading the University's "Official Bulletin for Undergraduate Studies."
- ☐ Prepare a tentative plan of the courses that you intend to take for the major.
- ☐ Find the faculty members designated by the department of your major who are authorized to approve and sign your completed blue concentration form. You will need to make an appointment with one of these authorized departmental advisers to complete your form. These faculty members are listed on the "Authorized Signatures" list, available online at <http://www.rochester.edu/college/CCAS/Authsign.html> and at the Academic Services Counter at Lattimore 312. These names are also listed in the printed Course Schedule, available several weeks prior to registration each semester.
- ☐ Read the instructions for completing the form (printed on its reverse side).

**From this point, procedures vary somewhat depending on your plans. Here are some helpful links that take you through the next steps:**

*How to Declare a Major in Arts & Sciences:*

<http://www.rochester.edu/college/sophomores/declare/artsandsciences.html>

*How to Declare a Major in the School of Engineering & Applied Sciences:*

<http://www.rochester.edu/college/sophomores/declare/engineering.html>

*How to Declare a Double Major or Double Degree:*

<http://www.rochester.edu/college/sophomores/declare/doublemajor.html>

*How to Declare Clusters:*

<http://www.rochester.edu/college/sophomores/declare/clusters.html>

*Some FAQ's about Declaring the Major:*

<http://www.rochester.edu/college/sophomores/declare/faqs.html>

**What do your upcoming semesters look like? Just for yourself, map out an 8-semester plan, keeping in mind that this is likely to change as your interests develop.**