



welcome!



Staff in **Advising & Orientation** are happy to welcome you to **CSU, Chico**. As the official advising office for undeclared students, we invite you to come in often to talk about scheduling, choice of major, or other questions you have. **MLIB 190** is the one-stop shop for undeclared students!

With the help of our former undeclared student interns, we have prepared this brochure with helpful tips and suggestions to guide you in choosing a major or minor. Follow our semester-by-semester guide to reduce your stress and eliminate the guesswork. **Remember, choosing a major requires your active participation and investigation!**

Best of all, it can be a lot of fun!

A Message from Brad, B.A. Psychology, 2001

"If you're having a hard time choosing a major, you're not alone. Often students have the misconception that their major is going to determine what they do for the rest of their life after college. Keep in mind that many jobs don't require a specific major—they require skills that might be acquired through a variety of majors. Also, chances are, your first job after graduation is not going to be the only job you ever have!"



1st

semester
checklist

Spend Time Thinking About Who You Are and What You Like

What are your dreams?

Love to travel? Want to live in a big city? Have a family and career? If you could pick your dream job, what would it be? Do you have ideas or dreams that have never changed over the years?

What are your interests and talents?

Are you a good writer? Do well in math? Like to problem solve? Good with people? Comfortable in front of a group? Love little kids? Creative or artistic? Prefer to work outdoors or in an office?

Take a Personality Inventory or Interest Survey. Career Planning and Placement, MLIB 150.

Sample Majors Through General Education Courses

Go to the University Catalog and check out a major that interests you. If you see an asterisk* next to a class, it means that this course fulfills GE and major requirements. Why not do both?

What about taking a GE course that fulfills requirements in several majors? For example, **Econ 102, 103, and/or Econ 101** are requirements for Agricultural Business, Business Administration, Construction Management, Social Science, Manufacturing Technology, Economics, and Social Work.

Biology 103 is required for Nursing, Kinesiology, and Exercise Physiology. Browse through the University Catalog for more examples.

Take GE Courses That Introduce You to a Major

For example

Recreation: Leisure and Life (RECR 180)

Computer Graphics: Computer-Assisted Art 1 (APCG 110)

Art: Art History Survey (ARTS 101, 102)

Psychology: Principles of Psychology (PSYC 101)

Nutrition: Basic Nutrition (NFSC 100)

Many more examples are available in the Office of Advising & Orientation.

2nd

semester
checklist

Make a List of Possible Majors and Prioritize Them

Use the list of all CSU, Chico Majors, Minors, and Certificates (available in **MLIB 190** or in the 2005–2007 University

Catalog, pg. 118) and circle, highlight, or underline those majors that appeal to you. Or put a line through those majors that don't interest you.

Take a Trip to the Career Planning and Placement Center, MLIB 150

Make an appointment and learn more about how your strengths, interests, and talents match different majors and careers.

Work independently or with assistance in the Career Planning computer lab accessing a variety of career-related Web sites, personality and interest tests, and job search information. Having more information can help you make a well-informed decision.

Investigate Majors, Minors, and Classes

Check the University Catalog or CSU, Chico's catalog Web site and read the descriptions of majors and minors that interest you.

What does someone with this major do?

Look at the class selections. Do the classes sound interesting to you?

Can't tell what they're about? Look at the course descriptions at the end of each major chapter.

How about a minor? A minor can add value to your resumé, provide you with additional skills (a language?), complement your major, or satisfy your curiosity. Yes, you can earn more than one minor!

"What if I choose a Social Work major with an Alternative Dispute Resolution minor?"



3&4th semester checklist

What Courses Have You Taken That You Liked? Did Well In? Any Patterns or Consistencies?

"I never missed my Women's Studies classes."

"I've always been a good writer."

"I got two A's in my language classes."

"My favorite class in high school was chemistry."

Talk to Faculty or Major Advisors to Learn More About the Majors on Your List

Where or for whom does a person work with this major? Corporation, state, county, city or federal government, city or county educational system? Private businesses? **What is the job market** for a person with this major? What do you like most about this major and **why did you go into this field?**

Gain Experience Outside of Class— Learn What You Like

Volunteer! After-school programs, Boys and Girls Club, Alternatives to Violence, Women's Health Center, Parks and Recreation.

Check out CAVE (Community Action Volunteers in Education) at <http://www.csuchico.edu/cave>. You may even earn units!

Use a **part-time job, internship, or workstudy to learn what it's like** in a particular field: law office, accounting office, hospital, farms, resorts, schools, etc.

Consider an Internship— Visit Experiential Education

Ask about the **Internship Exploration System**, an easy-to-use database with more than 1,400 listings in the United States and overseas. Sample a possible career. Interested? Visit Reynolds 116 on West 2nd Street between Cherry and Orange streets.

Undeclared Myths and Facts

Myth: "You'll never get a job with that major."

Fact: A college degree in any major is a valuable asset. Completion of a degree is a message to employers that you possess a valuable skill set comprised of written and verbal communication skills, critical thinking and problem-solving skills, time management and organizational skills, etc.

Myth: "The major I pick now will determine my life-long career."

Fact: Not so. Research indicates that most people are not working in a field directly related to their major within 10 years after graduation.

Myth: "You should finish your General Education, then start on a major."

Fact: A better plan is to mix major courses and General Education courses each semester. Remember that some majors have required courses within General Education. Major academic plans cited below provide a semester-by-semester guide for combining GE with major courses.

Resources

Advising & Orientation

MLIB 190, 898-5712
2005–2007 Catalog, pg. 97
<http://www.csuchico.edu/advising>

Career Planning and Placement

MLIB 150, 898-5253
2005–2007 Catalog, pg. 65
<http://www.csuchico.edu/plc>

Office of Experiential Education

Reynolds Building, 898-5893
2005–2007 Catalog, pg. 66
<http://ids.csuchico.edu>

Academic Programs

Majors, Minors, Patterns, Certificates
2005–2007 Catalog, pg. 118
<http://www.csuchico.edu/catalog/programs.html>

Major Academic Plans (MAPS)

<http://www.csuchico.edu/catalog/programs.html>

Major Exploration

http://em.csuchico.edu/aap/undergrad/help/major_explore.asp



Chico

Today Decides Tomorrow

1 2 3 4

get there...

declare!



A guide to help CSU, Chico students declare a major

California State University, Chico
Advising & Orientation
Meriam Library 190

