



## The Passion

A liberal arts and sciences university, by definition, offers students a broad selection of courses including literature, art, philosophy, languages, history, and science. Gonzaga University requires all undergraduate students to complete the University Core Curriculum, which consists of courses in philosophy, religious studies, English, speech communications, and math. These classes provide students with critical thinking skills and a broad knowledge base in the liberal arts. This advanced-level curriculum challenges students to: explore and excel in their abilities to read, write, analyze, reflect, discuss, and persuade; evaluate learning with discernment and empathy; explore the past for the light it casts on the present and future; create works of the imagination; practice ethical decision-making; and develop a foundation for designing a career.

Each year, approximately one-third of Gonzaga's freshman class enter the University without formally declaring a major, and at least a third of those who did declare a major change it. Because Gonzaga students have until the end of their sophomore year to decide upon and declare a major, they may use their first two years to explore various subjects that engage their personal interests and talents.

## The Potential

Undecided students are assigned an academic advisor to help them in choosing their courses each semester and in monitoring their academic progress. All of the faculty have had significant personal and professional experiences in selecting undergraduate majors and careers, so students are encouraged to draw upon the faculty's experiences for advice and guidance.

For the first semester, advisors recommend that students begin to enroll in their Core Curriculum classes as a way of sampling various areas of study. In addition, students who think they may be interested in a major in the Schools of Engineering, Education, or Business, or who might be interested in the health sciences, should seek advice from faculty advisors in these areas during their first semester. Early planning in these areas is fundamental to proper preparation and timely graduation.

Choosing a major can be a challenging task for many students. Students need to gather as much information as possible about themselves, different majors, and realistic career opportunities. The Gonzaga University Counseling & Career Assessment Center is available to assist students in the process of researching and choosing an academic area that fits their interests, values, and needs. Research has demonstrated that the

more aware you are of your career goals and dreams, the better able you will be to turn them into reality.

The Center offers students several different career inventories, including the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator, the Strong Interest Inventory, and the SIGI 3 (System of Interactive Guidance and Information) program. The Myers-Briggs Type Indicator provides insights into personality styles and preferred work settings. The Strong Interest Inventory identifies work, leisure, and living environments compatible with specific interests. Finally, the SIGI 3 computer program clarifies interests, values, and skills while identifying compatible academic majors and career fields. From this information, students can discover ways to translate their academic experiences into skills needed in the workplace.

**Visit the Counseling & Career Assessment Center website at:**

[www.gonzaga.edu/counselingcenter](http://www.gonzaga.edu/counselingcenter)



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**For more information on choosing a major, please contact:** Dr. Fernando A. Ortiz, Director, Counseling & Career Assessment Center, (509) 313-4054 or (800) 986-9585 ext. 4054, [ortiz2@gonzaga.edu](mailto:ortiz2@gonzaga.edu)