ADVISING FOR UNDECIDED STUDENTS

Undecided students are assigned an academic advisor to help them choose their courses each semester and monitor 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 & Applied Science, Education, or Business Administration, 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 Career Center and Gonzaga Alumni Mentor Program (GAMP) are 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 students are of their career goals and dreams, the better able they will be to turn them into reality.

THE VALUE OF A LIBERAL ARTS EDUCATION

A liberal arts university, by definition, offers students a broad selection of courses in areas like literature, art, philosophy, languages, history, and science. Gonzaga University requires all undergraduate students to take the University Core Curriculum, a set of liberal arts courses. These Core Curriculum classes provide students with a base of knowledge and skills that distinguish a college educated person. This curriculum encourages students to:

- excel in their abilities to read, write, analyze, reflect, discuss, and persuade
- learn with discernment and empathy
- consider how the past sheds may shed light on the present and future
- infuse creativity and imagination into their work
- practice ethical decision-making
- develop a foundation for choosing a career

The Career Center offers students several different career discovery tools, including the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator and the Strong Interest Inventory. 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 and provides some suggested majors based on the inventory’s results. From this information, students can discover ways to translate their academic experiences into skills needed in the workplace.

Students also have the opportunity to connect with professionals in their intended fields or majors through GAMP. GAMP is a mentoring and networking program designed for Gonzaga University students, alumni, and friends. Students and graduates are matched with mentors who share similar career fields, geographic locations, or other interests. The program’s primary goal is to establish a relationship between the mentee and mentor that facilitates better career decision-making and the development of a professional network that can result in increased job opportunities.

For more information, visit the Career Center & GAMP website: www.gonzaga.edu/careercenter.