

Picking Your Major

Hi, My name is Alison Lerman and I'm an Academic Advisor in the School of Business. As advisors in the Office of Undergraduate Advising, we always get the questions "How do I choose my major?" To help answer this question, we put together the following video for you!

The School of Business has students at different UConn campuses: Hartford, Stamford, Storrs, Waterbury, and Avery Point. As you can see you can complete different majors at four of these campuses. Students that begin at Avery Point will change campuses to Storrs after completing two years.

You can use this webpage to learn more about each major offered in the School of Business. It is important to know if it matches with your ideas about the major. These webpages review details about the curriculum, experiential learning opportunities, experiences of students in the majors, and professional path information with a given major. Be sure to take a look at the Plans of Study to better understand what courses you would be taking in each major. It is good to check in with yourself about your interest level and motivation to take those courses. This will also help show you what your remaining terms at UConn could look like including your progression.

- <https://undergrad.business.uconn.edu/>

In general here are some helpful things to think about as you ponder the question: how do I select a major that is right for me? Often we feel we must start with questions like: what do I want to do for a career? There are a lot of questions to look at however, but we recommend collecting information first and foremost. As a different approach you may consider where you wish to work? What classes would you like to take at UConn? What opportunities does this major offer me as a student?

All of these questions might feel overwhelming, but we are here to support you. So, let's look at the facts: You have a lot of options in front of you, you likely haven't taken major specific classes yet, AND a full time career could seem like a distant future. So many students are in this situation and the fact that you are working on making a choice now with as much information as you can get is a great start!

Here are some things I suggest you review during your decision making process:

- Meet with your Academic Advisor and have a conversation about your interest in finding the right major for you
 - Use The Major Experience (TME) website to explore different majors and learn more about them. This website is a great way to learn more about different majors in relation to who you are as a person. For instance, they have different tools that you can use to learn more about your personality traits, values, strengths & skills. As the TME office says, "self knowledge and awareness is a big piece of the puzzle when exploring majors."
 - <https://tme.uconn.edu/>

- Attend one of the Industry Immersion Programs that will help you learn about the skills and experiences of our alumni and business leaders. They will share what types of experiences inside and outside of the classroom will equip you for success in that industry.
- Join student clubs related to majors you're interested in! This will help you meet students actually taking classes in the major, and you can learn more about the major coursework from them and what aspirations they have for their professional futures.
 - Speaking to people who are in or have completed majors you are interested in can be the most insightful way to learn more. You may learn about ways they utilized a major, avoided a certain path, or choose to do something like a minor versus a major.
 - <https://undergrad.business.uconn.edu/experience/student-orgs/>
 - <https://uconntact.uconn.edu/organizations>
- Don't forget alumni are a great resource and there are lots of ways to connect with them. Your advisor can help you find the best way to connect through student organization, professional events, and mentorship programs.
- You can schedule a meeting with the School of Business Career and Development Office to discuss and research post-graduation job/graduate school opportunities related to majors you're interested in
 - More in-depth questions to consider with the Business Career Consultant: What type of office do you want to work in – small or large? where is the office – city, rural, abroad? Do you want to work with customer service or data?
 - If you have a job in mind, use it as inspiration as you do your own research: look at job descriptions, current employees' paths on LinkedIn, and current postings to see degree requirements
 - <https://career.business.uconn.edu/>
- Reflect on your past when planning for the future: Think about what topics or activities you have enjoyed/proud of/excite you and why, to help guide you towards a major that would lead to fulfillment in the future. This is to encourage you to focus on your interests when picking a major and find your intersection of talent
 - In relation to this, pay attention to your UConn class experiences: how have you done in them, what is your learning style when it comes to certain topics, what do you enjoy learning about
- Gain skills outside the classroom: while courses and your major are important we often best learn from what we are doing outside the classroom. This is what is often referred to in interviews as well. Those interests and actions will help you select a major program that feeds those. For example, find job shadow or volunteering opportunities in something related to a major you are considering or a career path you might be interested in to get first hand insight!
- When you feel like you have found the major, one of the School of Business Professional Advisors can help you consider different academic pathways to reach your goal within your graduation timeline.

- Lastly, remember to focus on what you DO NOT want to do: elimination will help prevent that feeling of being overwhelmed by choices

There is no wrong decision! It is okay if you are feeling unsure. Keep in mind you have time and now IS the time to explore! You may discover things along the way that encourage you to change paths and that is okay!

Don't forget to check out these resources to help guide you!

Resources Slide at the end of Powtoon video:

- LAUNCH: <https://undergrad.business.uconn.edu/experience/launch/>
- Advising: <https://undergrad.business.uconn.edu/advising/dropinadvising/>
- School of Business Undergraduate Career and Development Office: <https://career.business.uconn.edu/>
- LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/school/uconnbusiness/>