

MetaMajors for undecided students

CURRENTLY:

Students must select one intended major on their application for admission and can select anything offered at UWM. If admitted, they are assigned to the school/college associated with that major and advising is provided by that school/college. Students who apply as “undecided” are assigned to the College of Letters & Science and advised by L&S advisors.

PROPOSED:

- Students will continue to be able to select any intended major they wish upon application and nothing will change in terms of their admission, school/college assignment, or advising assignment.
- Students who select “undecided” will subsequently be required to select a MetaMajor category. MetaMajors are groups of majors centered around a theme, for example, “health care” or “arts and humanities.” The exact categories and names of the MetaMajors are yet to be determined in consultation with the schools and colleges.
- MetaMajor students will be assigned to Letters & Science as their home college and will be admitted based on the criteria for Letters & Science, but they will receive advising from the new centralized advising office.
- Advising will focus on preparatory classes for majors that fall in that MetaMajor category, general education requirements that are applicable regardless of major, and an exploration of majors and careers from that category.
- The goal is to transition students to an intended or declared major by the end of the first year, at which point they would be re-assigned to the school/college for the major they select.

BENEFITS:

Good For Students: MetaMajors will give students earlier exposure to all majors that relate to their area of interest regardless of school/college. Research shows that students who follow this type of themed pathway declare a major sooner, make quicker progress to degree, are able to more efficiently fulfill degree requirements, and are retained at higher rates.

Good for Faculty: MetaMajors will increase cross-college collaboration and information dissemination as representatives from related areas work together to provide resources for students. Students who declare their majors sooner will be pushed out to faculty and school/college advisors sooner. With earlier data, programs will be better able to plan their curriculum and staffing knowing how many students are in the MetaMajor categories instead of just having all students grouped into an “undecided” category.

