

Advantages of Declaring a Major as Early as Possible

Choosing a major as soon as possible can save you time and money. **Not only that, more UC & CSU campuses are requiring that students have the lower division courses for the major completed prior to transfer in order to be admitted to the university.**

- An early choice of major can help you graduate in 4 years.
- An early choice of major can help you wisely plan what semesters you will take your courses. Some classes at SBCC are offered only once a year in either Fall or Spring semester.
- Once you choose your major, your academic requirements will be clearly defined.
- Choosing a major takes the guesswork out of choosing what courses to take.
- You will know how many elective units you will have, and you can decide how best to use your elective courses. You can decide whether to use electives to deepen your understanding of your major, or to complement your major, or to diversify your academic experience by taking classes in a variety of disciplines.
- If you start a major early you have time to:
 - ✓ take courses in the major beyond the minimum requirements
 - ✓ complete independent study within the major
 - ✓ take advantage of opportunities like honors courses, research, and study abroad.

What could happen if I delay choosing my major?

Delay in choosing your major could definitely mean that you will be spending more time at SBCC in order to complete your requirements for the Associate's degree and/or transfer. It can result in "wasted units," units that do not fulfill graduation requirements at SBCC or at a four-year university. It could also result in delaying your intended term of transfer to a university.

What if I need more time to explore academic subjects or I have multiple interests?

Many students need time to explore academic subjects that were not available in high school or to explore multiple interests. Choosing a major early just to have a major is as detrimental as not choosing a major until you are filing out your admission application. The important thing is to become actively engaged in the process of choosing a major as early as possible. You also need to be comfortable with the possible consequences of delaying your choice of major, such as a longer time in completing your degree or transfer requirements and additional expense.