



CASE WESTERN RESERVE
UNIVERSITY EST. 1826



First Year Student Advising Plenary



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First-Year Student Advising Plenary

*Exploration of Academic Opportunities: The Major and
Career Connection*

Academic Exploration Process & Informed Decision Making

Reflect

- Courses, experiences, information, skills

Explore

- Choices Fair 2009 - October 30, Veale Athletic Center
- Handbook, Websites, Materials, Info sessions

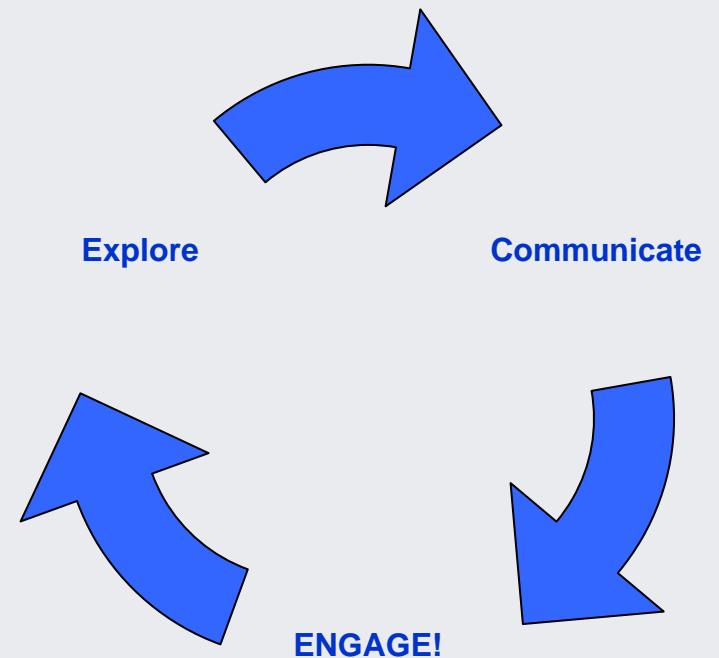
Communicate

- Advisor, First Year Representatives, Faculty, Career Center, upperclass students, Deans, etc.

Prepare

- Gather information, advising & course registration

Engage!



Quiz 1

1. There is a list of “best majors” and engineering is on it.
2. Students should pursue a “hard major” to impress Med/Law/Grad School admissions committees.
3. Students should avoid “hard majors” so as to keep their GPA as high as possible.

What Are the “Best” Majors?

- Best major is the one most suited to YOU
- Bachelor’s degree serves as a foundation
- You do not have to pursue all of your interests by pursuing majors and/or minors; taking courses and/or getting involved in co-curricular activities can be just as rewarding
- You do not have to explore all of your interests completely during your undergraduate tenure (remember that there are graduate and professional schools)
- Many degrees do not have a direct correlation to a specific career
- Many employers and graduate/professional schools admissions committees are not looking for specific majors, but rather how well students engaged academically and experientially

Quiz 2

1. Bachelor of Science degrees are harder than Bachelor of Arts degrees.
2. If the option exists to choose between a B.A degree and a B.S. degree, students should choose the B.S. degree.

B.A. v. B.S. Degrees in Natural and Mathematical Sciences

Bachelor's of Arts

- Generally fewer total courses
- Generally more choices in course selection
- Offer excellent foundation and preparation while allowing time for exploration of other interests

Bachelor's of Science

- Generally more total courses
- Generally more detailed & discipline specific courses
- Often more quantitative; often more courses from aligned disciplines
- Offer strong foundation to those focused on continuing graduate and/or professional exploration in the discipline

B.A. v. B.S. Degrees in Natural and Mathematical Sciences Continued

Graduate Schools, Professional Schools & Employers focus on the following:

- Demonstrated passion for your academic interests and for your extra-curricular experiences
- Excellence in the classroom more so than specific majors/degrees
- Ability to reflect on what you learned and the experiences that you had
- Maturity

Quiz 3

1. The more majors and/or degrees that you have, the more favorably employers, graduate, and professional schools will look upon you.
2. A dual degree and double major are the same thing – more than one major (e.g., Materials Science and Engineering and Chemistry).

Dual Degree/Double Major...What's the Difference?

Double Major

- Comprises two (or more) majors for the BSE in the Case School of Engineering (CSE)
- Comprises two (or more) majors for the BA in the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS)

Dual Degree

- BA + BS (CAS)
- BA + BS (or BSE) (CAS and CSE, FPB, WSOM)
- BS + BS (or BSE) (between schools)
- 30 additional hours beyond the first degree, usually resulting in more than eight semesters at Case

CIM Dual Degree

- CIM (BM) + Case (BA or BS)

Graduating Early...Issues to Consider

- Can you accomplish and learn in three years what you could accomplish and learn in four years?
- Have you given yourself time to explore broadly across disciplines, and/or more deeply within a discipline?
- Have you considered studying abroad?
- Have you engaged in research?
- Have you considered service, leadership and extra-curricular opportunities?
- Have you considered pursuing an integrated graduate degree program?
 - IGS, BS/MS, Senior Year in Professional Studies, MEM



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Career Center

SAGES Program

<http://careercenter.case.edu>

Case Career Center Four-Phase Career Development Model





Programs and Services

Career Counseling Program

- Career assessment inventories (MBTI and Strong Interest Inventory)
- Individual career counseling appointment
- Alumni Career Network
- On-line career resources- [Researching Majors and Careers](#)

Career Education

- Drop-in Consulting Hours
- Career Center workshops
- Case Career Link
- On-line internship resources -[Gaining Experience](#)

Recruitment Services

- On-campus Interviewing
- Employer Information Sessions
- Career fairs



Case Career Center

Location: Sears 206

Phone: (216)368-4446

Email: careers@case.edu

Hours: 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday – Friday

Upcoming Dates to Remember

Wednesday, October 28

- Navigating the Choices Fair Workshop
- **6:00 – 7:00 p.m., Wade Fireside Lounge**

Friday, October 30

- Choices Fair - Mandatory for all First-Year Students
- **12:30 – 1:45 p.m., Veale Center**

Monday, November 2

- First-year students may begin to declare major(s) and minor(s)

Friday, November 20

- Spring 2010 Registration begins for first-year students

Final Quiz...Do you know ... ?

1. what the **Pass/No Pass Option** is, how it might be of benefit to you, if you are eligible to use it, and when the deadline to use it is?
2. that “**freshman forgiveness**” doesn’t exist, but that there are other unique first-year student academic policies?
3. if you can choose to **withdraw** from courses such that you are enrolled in less than 12 hours?
4. how and when to **declare majors and minors**?
5. what GPA and how many credit hours you have to earn this fall in order to be in **good academic standing**?

Don't know....????

Get your answers **HERE**

1. Emails from Julie Amon and Steven Scherger and the Office of Undergraduate Studies
2. *First Year Student Newsletter*
3. *2009-2010 Handbook for Undergraduate Students*
4. *FYI Guide*
5. Advisors, Undergraduate Studies, Department Representatives
6. First Year Experience – CWRU Class of 2013 Facebook