

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Explore Your Options

Undecided—our most popular “major”

College of Agriculture
and Life Sciences

College of Business
College of Design

College of Engineering
College of Human Sciences

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Preprofessional Programs

Iowa State University has more than 100 majors that provide virtually unlimited academic opportunities. In this brochure you'll find information about your specific area of interest and a family of related majors that you may want to explore during your adventure here at Iowa State. Please use the contact information listed inside and let us help you discover your passions, unlock your potential, and **enjoy the adventure.**

You're not the only one

Twenty percent of Iowa State students enter undecided. Undecided students generally are more certain of their majors once they choose them. Because of all the support they receive in finding the right major, “undecided” students usually choose a major by their sophomore year and are more certain of their decisions.

Undecided doesn't mean unmotivated

Undecided students are motivated by their desire to avoid making a mistake as they make a choice that will impact their professional and personal lives. They tend to be conscientious and thorough.

You won't delay your academic progress by waiting to decide on a major

Most majors require a common core of general education courses. You will work with your adviser to determine which general education courses best support your interests and skills. If you are interested in sciences, for example, your adviser will recommend advanced science and math courses. If you're interested in a field of liberal arts, your adviser will recommend general courses in humanities, communications, natural and social sciences, and math.

In many cases, you can still graduate in four years

In fact, if you choose a major early enough you may participate in the Soar in Four program. If you commit to graduating in four years, the program ensures that you will have all the resources necessary to meet the requirements for your degree. If graduating in four years is important to you, your adviser will help you set up a program to ensure that you meet that goal.

Extra academic support is available

Each college provides a broad range of decision-making tools to help you choose a major. These include career fairs, academic advising, orientation, career exploration classes, field trips, professional contacts, computer-aided career exploration programs, and career counseling.

Iowa State graduates boast a 94 percent placement rate

Even if you don't know what you're going to do when you enter the university, our placement success indicates that you are most likely to find your place in the professional world within six months of graduation.

Field-specific scholarships are still available

As long as you choose a specific college, for example, “Engineering—Undecided,” you will still be eligible for scholarships offered by the College of Engineering.

Academic merit scholarships are available

Even if you don't choose a specific college, you may still qualify for academic merit scholarships. For information, call the Office of Student Financial Aid at 515 294-2223, or visit the financial aid website at www.financialaid.iastate.edu.

Explore Your Options

Where do you fit in?

At Iowa State, we realize there are different degrees of being undecided. For example, you might know which one of our six undergraduate colleges you prefer to enter, but you may not have decided on a specific major within that college. If this sounds like you, please know that you may enroll in any of our undergraduate colleges as an undecided major. You'll be assigned to an academic adviser who is very knowledgeable about all of the majors within that college and who will help you narrow your focus during your first few semesters.

Then again, you might not be sure which one of the six undergraduate colleges you wish to enter. At Iowa State, these students are referred to

as open option students. They are assigned to open option advisers who specialize in helping students explore their interests at the same time they are completing their general education requirements. As an open option student, you'll have an opportunity your first semester to join a learning community with other students who are in the same situation as you, and to take a career development class your second semester to help guide you in selecting a major and a career that best match your interests, abilities, and goals.

Regardless of how undecided you might be, Iowa State is an excellent place to begin your studies!

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

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College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

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www.agstudent.iastate.edu/ag_exploration.php

"I want to do something related to environmental conservation. I like working with plants and/or animals. I'm interested in all aspects of agriculture and the life sciences."

Approximately 30–90 students a year enroll at Iowa State as undecided agriculture and life sciences students (Ag and Life Sciences Exploration, AgLS X). As you explore your options, you will enroll in an exploration class for undecided students, where you will further develop your goal-setting and decision-making skills. In the course, a diverse group of advisers will provide you with in-depth information

Agriculture and Life Sciences Exploration

Agricultural Biochemistry
Agricultural Business
Agriculture and Life Sciences Education
Agriculture and Society
Agricultural Studies
Agricultural Systems Technology
Agronomy
Animal Ecology
Animal Science

Biology (AGLS)
Culinary Science
Dairy Science
Diet and Exercise (AGLS)
Dietetics (AGLS)
Emerging Global Diseases *
Environmental Science (AGLS)
Environmental Studies †
Food Safety *
Food Science (AGLS)
Forestry

Genetics (AGLS)
Global Resource Systems
Horticulture
Industrial Technology
Insect Science*
International Agriculture †
Meat Science*
Microbiology
Nutritional Science (AGLS)
Seed Science †
Zoology **

* offered as a minor only

† offered as a secondary major only (students also select a primary major)

** this area of study is available within the biology major

College of Business

Sarah Adams

Undergraduate Programs

College of Business Office

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www.business.iastate.edu

"I'm interested in business management or owning my own business. I like to work with numbers and finances. I want to know how business systems work—from transporting to marketing goods."

Nearly all students in the college start off as pre-business majors. Business advisers help you determine which program will be best for you, given your skills and interests. At the end of your pre-business program, you will have completed your foundation courses and, in most cases, have chosen what field of business you want to pursue. If you are still undecided, you may take the professional courses as an undecided student. As

Business—Undecided
Accounting
Business Economics
Entrepreneurial Studies *

Finance
International Business †
Management

Management Information Systems
Marketing
Supply Chain Management

* offered as a minor only

† offered as a secondary major only (students also select a primary major)

a freshman you will take a business orientation class and, during career days, you will visit with company representatives to determine what skills are needed for specific jobs. To help you clarify your interests, faculty present differences between majors to the class. The Business Career Services Center provides staff that will help you explore career opportunities, an online résumé service, a library of career opportunities, and computerized career assessment tools.

College of Design

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"I'm interested in drawing, painting, and graphics. I want to plan and design spaces—buildings, communities, landscapes, and living or work environments."

The undergraduate curricula in the College of Design are divided into two phases. During their first year, students attend a common set of studio and lecture classes, called the Core Design Program. These classes create a shared language, experience, and community that expose students to all disciplines within the College of Design—including architecture, art and design, community and regional planning, graphic design, industrial design, integrated studio arts, interdisciplinary design, interior design, and landscape

Design—Undecided

Architecture

Art and Design *

Community and Regional Planning

Design Studies **

Digital Media **

Environmental Studies †

Graphic Design

Industrial Design

Integrated Studio Arts

Interior Design

Landscape Architecture

* offered with two options: Art and Culture (general studies) and Visual Culture Studies (art history and museum studies)

** offered as a minor only

† offered as a secondary major only (students also select a primary major)

architecture—and prepare them for application to any of these degree programs. Admission to the enrollment-managed professional programs (all except art and design, community and regional planning, and interdisciplinary design) requires a separate application after completing the Core Design Program, depends on available resources, and is subject to review by faculty committee. Applicants are reviewed on the basis of a portfolio of original work, scholastic performance, and a written essay. Students may apply to multiple degree programs.

College of Engineering

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www.eng.iastate.edu/advising

"I have an interest in and aptitude for science and math and want to apply my skills to engineering. I see myself solving real-world problems and meeting the technical challenges of the 21st century. I want to make a positive impact on society."

All engineering freshmen take a common set of courses called the "Basic Program," which generally requires two to three semesters to complete. As an undecided engineering student, you will have the opportunity to explore all the engineering disciplines offered at Iowa State University as you complete the Basic Program. You may even go on and take courses in specific majors before you make your decision. You

may choose your field at any time during your academic career. Advisers encourage you to take time to examine all the academic options available to you.

During Engineering 101, you will receive information about the various engineering disciplines and will be encouraged to participate in engineering departmental visits, field trips, and the engineering career fairs. You will discuss what engineers do, why they do it, where they live, and what they earn. You will also have a chance to share your ideas with other undecided students and with peer mentors who have already been through the challenge of choosing a major.

Engineering—Undecided

Aerospace Engineering

Agricultural Engineering

Chemical Engineering

Civil Engineering

Computer Engineering

Construction Engineering

Electrical Engineering

Engineering Studies *

Industrial Engineering

Materials Engineering

Mechanical Engineering

Nondestructive Evaluation *

Software Engineering

* offered as a minor only

College of Human Sciences

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"I want to pursue a career in business as an apparel buyer or hotel manager. I see myself as a resource for families and communities—perhaps working with local or federal services or education agencies. I want to know more about food product development for industry, or perhaps nutrition research."

When you enter the College of Human Sciences as an undecided student, the college's general adviser will assist you. During this year of

exploration, your adviser will suggest some specific university programs and strategies to help you focus on a particular field. The college offers the MINDS learning community as well as an orientation class, which meets weekly in the fall. Topics covered include academic life, how to find resources and tools to be successful, goal setting, decision-making models, how to choose a major, and how to plan your own program.

Human Sciences—Undecided

Apparel, Merchandising, and Design

Athletic Coaching*

Athletic Training

Child, Adult, and Family Services

Culinary Science

Dance *

Diet and Exercise (H Sci)

Dietetics (H Sci)

Early Childhood Education

Educational Services in Family and Consumer Sciences *

Elementary Education

Event Management

Exercise Science*

Family and Consumer Sciences Education and Studies

Financial Counseling and Planning

Food and Society*

Food Safety*

Food Science (H Sci)

Gerontology *

Health Promotion*

Hospitality Management

Kinesiology and Health

Learning Technologies*

Nutrition*

Nutritional Science (H Sci)

Sport and Recreation*

* offered as a minor only

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

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"I like to express my creativity through the arts and humanities—writing, journalism, music, theatre. I want to travel to and learn about foreign countries. I am analytical and like to explore the world as a scientist would."

Are you more interested in math and science or the humanities and social sciences? Even as an undecided student in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, answering this question will help you narrow your course selection so that you can start off on the right path. If you're interested in math or sciences, your adviser may recommend that you consider more advanced math and science courses. If you're interested in the humanities, such as English, history, or the performing arts, your adviser might recommend a curriculum that includes more liberal arts classes in addition to basic math and science courses.

The best advice for you as you explore your academic and professional possibilities in college is to take advantage of a broad and rigorous curriculum in general education, which includes languages. This will prepare you for many career options.

You will take a half-semester orientation class (LAS 101) that provides information on Iowa State resources, study skills, majors, careers, registration, and academic standards.

Your adviser will also direct you to Career Services, where you may use the Discover program—a program that generates occupational options—and work with staff who will help you identify your professional options.

Humanities and Social Sciences

Liberal Arts and Sciences— Undecided	English Entrepreneurial Studies*	Music Performing Arts
Advertising	French	Philosophy
African American Studies*	German	Political Science
American Indian Studies*	History	Psychology
Anthropology	Interdisciplinary Studies	Religious Studies
Chinese Studies*	International Studies [†]	Russian Studies
Classical Studies	Journalism and Mass Communication	Sociology
Communication Studies	Latin*	Spanish
Criminal Justice Studies*	Liberal Studies	Speech Communication
Criminology and Criminal Justice	Linguistics	Technical Communication
Economics		U.S. Latino/a Studies
		Women's Studies

* offered as a minor only

[†] offered as a secondary major only (students also select a primary major)

Natural Sciences and Mathematical Disciplines

Astronomy*	Chemistry	Mathematics
Biochemistry	Computer Science	Meteorology
Bioinformatics and Computational Biology	Earth Science	Military Studies*
Biology	Emerging Global Diseases*	Physics
Biological/Premedical Illustration	Environmental Science	Software Engineering
Biophysics	Environmental Studies**	Statistics
Botany [†]	Genetics	Technology and Social Change*
	Geology	Zoology [†]

* offered as a minor only

[†] these areas of study are available within the biology major

** offered as a secondary major only (students also select a primary major)

Preprofessional Programs

Are you interested in pursuing a professional degree in an area like law, medicine, veterinary medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, etc.? If so, Iowa State is an excellent place to begin your preprofessional studies.

Many professional programs require that you first earn a bachelor's degree. Some professional programs allow students to enter before they earn their bachelor's degree. Either way, requirements for admission to most professional programs can be met by study at Iowa State.

You've probably heard college students say their major is pre-med or pre-law. Actually, these are not majors. They are simply terms that indicate the student plans to pursue a professional degree in a particular field.

If you wish to become a doctor or a lawyer, you can major in anything you want!

Typically, pre-law students will choose their major based on the type of law they wish to practice. To illustrate, pre-law students who are particularly interested in criminal law will frequently select majors like criminology and criminal justice, psychology, or sociology.

Most pre-med students will select a science-related major because most medical programs require applicants to have completed a significant number of undergraduate science courses before they can be considered for admission.

So while most preprofessional students have a major in addition to their preprofessional program, please know that you can declare a preprofessional program without declaring a major when you enroll at Iowa State.

Preprofessional Programs

Clinical Laboratory Science/
Medical Science

Cytotechnology

Dental Hygiene

Dentistry

Health Information Management

Hospital and Health Administration

Human Medicine

Law

Library and Information Science

Nuclear Medicine Technology

Occupational Therapy

Optometry

Pharmacy

Physical therapy

Physician Assistant

Podiatry

Theology or Religious Studies

Veterinary Medicine

Resources for making the best choice

Iowa State provides a variety of academic and professional programs that help you evaluate your interests, focus your skills, and make a career choice. In addition to the academic advising support listed in this brochure, the university offers career counseling services.

College career services

Iowa State offers a coordinated network of college-based offices that provide decision-making tools as you explore majors and careers. Stop in to talk with a counselor and access our resources:

- workshops and seminars
- career information days
- company literature and contacts
- cooperative education and internship services
- current job listings
- résumé referrals
- on-campus recruiting
- mock interviews
- individual career/job search counseling
- job fairs
- summer job opportunities
- graduate school information
- web 24/7 services

Feel free to make an appointment or call even before you're enrolled at Iowa State University. Our job is to help you figure out how you fit in here.

Agriculture and Life Sciences

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Business

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Design

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Engineering

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Human Sciences

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Liberal Arts and Sciences

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Career Exploration Program Student Counseling Service

210 Student Services
515 294-5056
www.iastate.edu/~stdtcouns

Student Counseling Service helps you prepare for the opportunities Iowa State offers in support of your academic career.

Career Exploration Library

This library features information about occupations, majors, undergraduate and graduate programs, professional training, and internships. Peer educators are available to assist library patrons.

Computer guidance systems

Iowa State's reputation for utilizing innovative technologies extends to career exploration tools.

- Discover—a computer-based career planning program that helps you learn more about yourself and the occupations best suited to you. The program assesses your interests, experience, and values to suggest career possibilities or professional training.

- Occupational Outlook Handbook (OOH)—Determining a major is often impacted by the availability of employment opportunities. The OOH online manual of governmental information predicts the availability of occupations in the United States in the future. OOH is also available in hard copy.

Individual counseling

A professional career counselor is available on a walk-in basis in the Career Exploration Library. The counselor will help you determine a process for exploring career options and predicting an academic path that will best meet your career goals. You may use computer-based assessments, Internet resources, or career inventories. Ongoing counseling on a weekly basis is also available if needed.

Preparing to study at Iowa State University

You don't have to wait until you're at Iowa State to begin thinking about your future career. You can start now by taking the following steps:

- Take as many science, math, and foreign language courses as possible so that you are well-prepared for a wide range of possible majors
- Identify which courses you have enjoyed the most or in which you have excelled
- Talk with your guidance counselor
- Take an interest inventory
- Look through career books in your local library
- Take part in career days at your school
- Talk with or job shadow a professional in a field in which you have some interest

Iowa State University
Office of Admissions
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Toll Free: 800 262-3810
Email: admissions@iastate.edu
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Questions about admission

In addition to writing us at the address at left, we encourage you to visit our website, which features a course catalog, online application, and campus information.

Also, you can follow us on:



Preparing to do your best while in school

The best preparation continues to be a strong college preparatory program of study, which includes courses in English, mathematics, laboratory science, social studies, and foreign languages. If you intend to transfer credits from another institution, you may contact our Office of Admissions for assistance in selecting the best courses for your program of study.

Material in this brochure was accurate at the time of printing. For the most up-to-date information, visit our Web site at www.iastate.edu.

Iowa State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, sex, marital status, disability, or status as a U.S. veteran. Inquiries can be directed to the Director of Equal Opportunity and Diversity, 3280 Beardshear Hall, 515 294-7612.

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY