



How incoming college students can choose a major

Metro Creative Connection

Incoming students' first days on a college campus can seem like a whirlwind, particularly for those who are moving into a dorm or another type of on-campus housing. With so much going on, from relocating to meeting new roommates and tasting independence for the first time, it's easy for students to overlook academics as they adjust to college life. But once classes begin, life on campus tends to settle down and students gradually become acclimated to their new surroundings.

Many students begin their college careers without a major. Choice of major is a significant decision, and college students who need a little help finding the right one can approach the process in a number of ways.

· Give yourself time. College students who checked the "undecided" box should know they're not alone. According to the education advisors at BestColleges, between 20 and 50 percent of college students enter college undecided on a major. Though it's not uncommon for college freshmen to meet their peers and feel a little intimidated by those who seemingly have a career path mapped out already, it's good to keep in mind that as many as half of the students in a 101 class may be undecided. Give yourself time and resist rushing into a decision regarding a major. Colleges and universities typically

don't mandate selecting a major until the end of sophomore year.

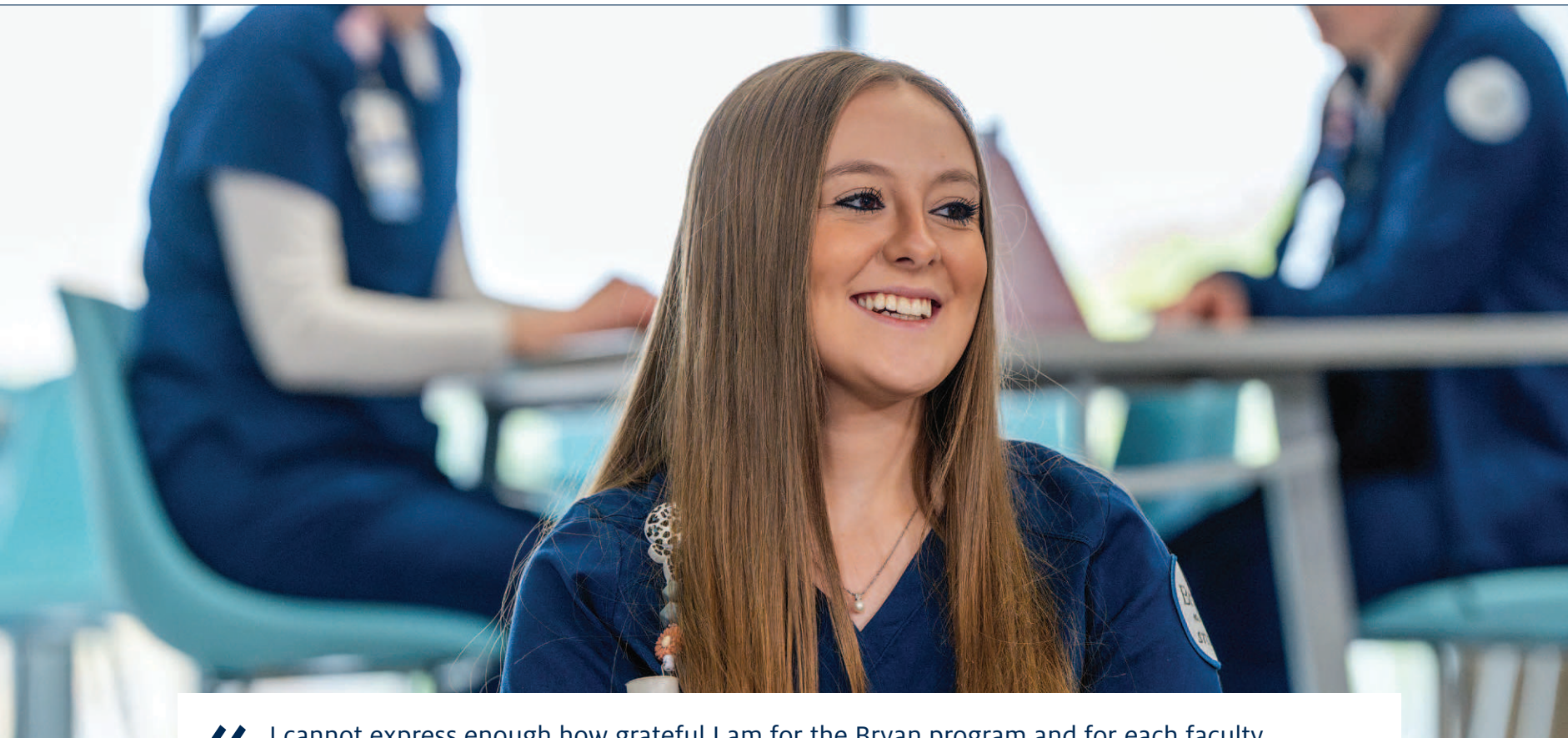
· Recognize you can always change majors. BestColleges notes that around three in four college students change their major at least once in their college career. That also should help undeclared students feel a little less intimidated by the process and even encourage them to dip their toes in as many academic waters as they want to.

· Use general education requirements to your advantage. Students may lament general education requirements that mandate they take courses in a diverse array of subjects. However, those requirements are meant to create well-rounded students and expose them to new subjects that might just spark a hidden passion and ultimately direct them down a career path. Make the most of these early college

classes if you're uncertain about which major to choose. These courses also can serve as a process of elimination, as you might identify certain subjects you aren't fond of, which can help you narrow down your options regarding a major.

· Look to extracurricular clubs. Clubs offer a great way to make new friends, and they're also effective at opening students' eyes and minds to potential areas of study. What's more, clubs don't require a substantial commitment, so if it turns out your passion isn't sparked, you can let club organizers know without any residual obligations like homework.

It can be intimidating to begin a college career without a major. But incoming students should know they have lots of time to make that decision and plenty of opportunities to find a course of study they will be passionate about.



“ I cannot express enough how grateful I am for the Bryan program and for each faculty member who helped me along the way. I always knew Bryan had an excellent reputation, but experiencing it firsthand was something entirely different.

Talking with other new graduates and hearing about their clinical experiences has only reinforced how fortunate we were. It is so evident that Bryan provides students with incredible opportunities and prepares them exceptionally well. – Darla Nichols, BSN, RN ”

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