

## Existing Policy on Registrar's Website

### Declaration of Major

A student should select a major after consultation with an advisor. Forms to declare the major are available on the **Registrar's Website** or in the Office of the Registrar. See requirements for majors under separate departmental listings.

## Proposed Policy – From the Associate/Assistant Deans

### Declaration of Major

First time college students and transfer students to Central may declare a major at the time of application to the university or may choose the option to be Exploratory. Transfer students entering with an Associate Degree must declare a major at the time of application. All students are required to declare a major once 45 credits (including AP and other college credit) have been completed. It is strongly recommended that students declare a major by the end of the first year. Students who declare or change a major after the first year may require more than four years to complete all degree requirements, depending on the program of study.

Exploratory students are assigned an academic advisor in the Center for Advising & Career Exploration (CACE). CACE advisors assist Exploratory students with directed academic and career exploration activities and guide them through the process of initiating the Change of Major Form to declare a major. Change of major requests may be subject to specific departmental or professional school requirements for acceptance.

Students who reach the 45 credit threshold without a major will be able to register only after meeting with an advisor and officially declaring a major. Transfer students and re-entering students with more than 45 credits must declare a major by the end of the first academic semester of attendance.

Students who have been denied admission to a professional school or those who have been administratively changed to Exploratory are referred to CACE for academic and career advising. These students have one semester to declare a new major.

## Rationale

Research supports the notion that students who declare their major early are more likely to succeed and graduate from the university. With our current policy, students may remain in the Undeclared (Exploratory) category for as long as they wish without any consequence. By doing so, however, they are encumbering resources that might be better used by students who have declared a major and need certain classes to continue their normal progress, and they are extending the time it will take to graduate once they finally do declare a major. This policy change seems appropriate at this time as we are all concerned about dwindling resources, retention, and graduation rates.

Many Undeclared students have been dismissed from a pre-professional program (SEPS, SOB) for a sub-standard GPA, but they insist on trying to get back into those programs, even when the GPA math will not work. If this new Declaration of Major Policy is approved, it will support efforts made by advisors who work with these students and require students to declare their major sooner than later.