

Central Connecticut State University

UNIVERSITY SENATE ACTION

Senate Motion Number FS 15.16.018B

TO: President Jack Miller

FROM: President of the University Senate

1. The attached motion of the University Senate, dealing with: **Declaration of Major Policy** is presented to you for your consideration.
2. This motion was adopted by the University Senate on **04/04/2016**.
3. After considering this motion, please indicate your action on this form, and return it together with the original copy to the President of the University Senate.
4. Under the By-Laws of the University Senate, Section 3.7, the following schedule of action is to be observed.

a) By **04/15/2016**, Senate action reported to the President of the University. (Within five school days of the session in which they are adopted).

b) By **04/29/2016**, the President of the University to return the motion to the President of the Senate. (Within ten school days of its receipt).

04/15/2016

Date



Stephen Cohen, President, University Senate

ENDORSEMENT:

TO: President of the University Senate

FROM: President Jack Miller

1. Motion Approved : _____ ✓
2. Motion Disapproved: _____ (Explanatory statement must be appended).
3. Action "is deferred": _____
4. Resolution Noted: _____
5. Other: _____

Date



President Jack Miller

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.