# How important is it to declare a major in the first year of college?

Most students do not know exactly what they want to do when they initially enter college, and one in four actually change their major. There are benefits to waiting and there are benefits to declaring it. If you declare in first year, you will already have begun started on required courses and may prevent staying an extra year because you didn’t decide early on. However, you have a high chance of changing your mind and taking courses you didn’t need. By waiting, you can decide on what you want to do and take general education courses first. However, don’t wait too long.