

"I had applied to many colleges that were very expensive without any idea of a major. Then I heard about the Undeclared Option at MCC and thought it would help me decide on a career path for the future.

"It is a very flexible program. I took a wide range of classes, from mythology to marketing to foreign languages. I learned what I liked, and what I didn't.

"As I was picking my classes, I started to notice that I kept choosing foreign languages. From then on, it became easy to make a concrete decision.

Because Undeclared students are taking general education courses they are easily transferable and accepted at almost any college.

"My advisor helped me so much. I was in and out of her office scheduling semesters, picking transfer colleges, and just discussing my career path. With her help, I learned to structure my time here at MCC, and those skills will help me in my transfer college.

"This program gives you plenty of time to try out your many different interests and develop new ones. I recommend it highly."

Michael Dedes

Foreign Languages Major

Transferring to New York University



**"IT GIVES YOU THE TIME AND THE TOOLS
TO HELP YOU DECIDE ABOUT YOUR FUTURE."**



THERE'S MORE TO YOU. THERE'S MORE TO MCC.

DID YOU KNOW?

Nationally, up to 50% of students entering college are undecided about their academic or career goals. Here at MCC, the Undeclared Option is the third largest major.

About 75% of students change their major at least once before graduation. With the Undeclared Option, you're more likely to choose the right major the first time, and avoid changes that could cost you valuable time and money.

WHERE DO I GO TO LEARN MORE?

PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS:

Contact the Admissions Office, (585) 292-2200 • www.monroecc.edu/go/admissions

CURRENT STUDENTS:

Contact the Counseling & Advising Center, (585) 292-2299
www.monroecc.edu/depts/counsel/LA67/LA67index.htm

Or visit www.monroecc.edu, and click "Undeclared Option" in the A-Z index



www.monroecc.edu

BRIGHTON CAMPUS: 1000 East Henrietta Road / Rochester, NY 14623 / (585) 292-2000

DAMON CITY CAMPUS: 228 East Main Street / Rochester, NY 14604 / (585) 262-1600

APPLIED TECHNOLOGIES CENTER: 2485 West Henrietta Road / Rochester, NY 14623 / (585) 292-3700

PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING CENTER: 1190 Scottsville Road / Rochester, NY 14624 / (585) 279-4100



**UNSURE
ABOUT A
MAJOR?**

DISCOVER THE RIGHT
PATH TO YOUR FUTURE.

THE UNDECLARED OPTION AT MCC





“When I got to MCC, I wasn’t sure what courses I wanted to focus on. I chose the Undeclared Option because it gave me a chance to put out some feelers before I committed to a four-year degree.

“I started by taking the Career Development class, which really helped me get focused. After looking at what I was interested in, the Counseling & Advising Center steered me toward accounting and business classes. I ended up declaring a Business Administration major a year later, and I’m going to St. John Fisher to major in accounting. All my credits transferred without any problem.

“I worked very closely with my advisor over the next year—it was totally personal assistance. My advisor helped plan my schedule, coached me about whether I was taking too many classes, and gave me the motivation and support I needed.

“If you don’t know what you want to do, it’s better not to declare because you’re able to explore before you make a mistake. The Undeclared Option lets you evaluate lots of different options without wasting time or credits or money.”

Shellyan Manhertz

Business Administration Major

Transferring to St. John Fisher College

**“IT’S PERFECT WHEN YOU’RE
NOT SURE WHAT YOU WANT TO DO.”**

LEARN ... EXPERIENCE ... EXPLORE ... DECLARE

WHEN YOU'RE UNSURE ABOUT A MAJOR, CHOOSE THE UNDECLARED OPTION FIRST

WHAT IS THE UNDECLARED OPTION?

The Undeclared Option is a way to learn more about yourself and your career goals before declaring a major. If you're not sure what you want to major in, or what career you want to pursue, it's an excellent choice to explore different possibilities while accumulating credits that count towards graduation.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

PERSONALIZED COACHING. Your advisor will work closely with you to help you pinpoint your interests, choose the right courses, set goals, and clarify your objectives.

CAREER ADVISING. You'll work with a specially trained advisor to learn about different career paths and explore strategies for smart career choices. Your advisor will also refer you directly to individual faculty members to discuss specific majors and careers in more detail. In addition, each semester you'll attend a workshop on career decision-making offered exclusively for Undeclared students.

CAREER ASSESSMENT. One of the first things you can do as an Undeclared student is take CDL 110, "Career and Life Planning for Undeclared Students." As part of the course, you'll take a series of assessments that help you learn more about yourself, your interests and the careers that match them.

INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION. You'll choose from a wide variety of courses that target your different interests. You'll also take a broad base of Liberal Arts courses that fulfill graduation requirements.

ONGOING SUPPORT. Throughout your entire time as an Undeclared student, you'll meet regularly with your advisor to help you stay on the path to success. You'll gain the tools and skills to plan your future in a systematic, organized way.

IS THE UNDECLARED OPTION RIGHT FOR ME?

The Undeclared Option is the ideal solution if:

- You have many interests and a difficult time choosing between them
- You want to learn about different majors and career possibilities
- You want to discover more about yourself and how your interests and abilities can translate into a career
- You feel pressured to choose a major but you're not ready to make a decision

PATHWAY TO YOUR CAREER DECISION

- **EVALUATE** your personality traits, skills, values, interests, abilities
- **EXPLORE** majors
- **EXPERIENCE** different career possibilities
- **ENGAGE** in a transfer school search or job search

WHEN DO I DECIDE ON A MAJOR?

If you plan to graduate within two years, we recommend that you choose a major after completing one year of courses or 30 credit hours.

WILL MY COURSES COUNT TOWARDS GRADUATION?

You'll take the same general education courses required by most degree programs – English composition, mathematics, social sciences, and humanities electives. What makes the Undeclared Option unique is the personalized advising. Your advisor will help you choose courses that target your different interests while staying on track to graduate in two years (if you are attending full time).

SAMPLE FIRST SEMESTER SCHEDULE

COURSE	CREDITS
English/Writing	3
Math/Natural Science	3
Social Science Elective	3
One Elective	3
Career Development (CDL 110)	2
Total Credits	14

CAREER DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES

Individual career counseling
Individual academic advisement
Computer-assisted career assessment
Career development courses
Career workshops and forums
Personality/interest assessments
Career planning guides and references
Newsletters
Liberal Arts Mentor Program
Personal growth workshops
Career library
Occupational and employer literature
Occupational references

"I had some ideas about what I wanted to do, but I wasn't sure which major would most closely fit my interests. So I chose the Undeclared Option because it let me experience everything. I could experiment with different classes and figure out what career I wanted to go into.

"The Counseling & Advising Center was amazing. My advisor made it easy for me to come in and talk to her, and she steered me in the right direction. She kept tabs with me throughout the entire program.

"I wound up choosing a Liberal Arts degree with a communications concentration. My plan is to become a radio personality. I volunteer at a radio station now, and I'll probably go on to get a four-year communications degree.

"I would highly recommend the Undeclared Option. If you're confused it is a great way to find out what you really want to do."

John Edmondson
Liberal Arts Major



"IT LET ME EXPERIENCE EVERYTHING WITHOUT BEING LIMITED."

“BY THE TIME YOU HAVE TO DECLARE, YOU REALLY KNOW WHAT YOU WANT TO MAJOR IN.”

“Like many freshmen, I just didn’t know what I wanted to do. I heard about the Undeclared Option at Orientation and it sounded like a great opportunity to explore.

“The Counseling & Advising Center gave me personality assessments and career option inventories that helped me focus on the things I liked to do, and then helped me find a major that would allow me to do them. You really develop a personal relationship with your advisor.

“I learned to follow my heart. My advisor guided my choices, and eventually I discovered that Liberal Arts was the best fit for me and that I wanted to transfer to a SUNY school. I plan to get my four-year degree in English and Philosophy.

“I really recommend the Undeclared Option if you don’t know what you’re going to do with your life. It’s a great place to start because it gives you more options.”

Meredith Schreiber

Liberal Arts Major

Transferring to SUNY Geneseo



6 MYTHS ABOUT THE UNDECLARED OPTION

MYTH: “I WON’T GRADUATE ON TIME.”

FACT: Just like any MCC program, the Undeclared Option lets you graduate in two years if you study full time. You can declare your major after completing one year or 30 credits.

MYTH: “IT’S NOT FOR HONORS STUDENTS.”

FACT: Undeclared Option students are often some of the brightest minds on campus – students with multiple talents who aren’t yet sure where to channel their interests. Undeclared Option students are eligible for honors courses just like any other MCC student. Your schedule is developed based on your individual academic background and career interests.

MYTH: “AFTER I DECIDE MY MAJOR, MY CREDITS WON’T FIT INTO MY PROGRAM.”

FACT: You spend the first year taking mostly general courses that are common to most degree programs. Since you are less likely to change your mind about your major after exploring multiple options, you actually decrease the chance of accumulating credits that do not count towards graduation.

MYTH: “MY CREDITS WON’T TRANSFER TOWARDS A FOUR-YEAR DEGREE.”

FACT: You’re taking the same credentialed courses, and MCC credits transfer to colleges and universities nationwide.

MYTH: “I WON’T QUALIFY FOR FINANCIAL AID.”

FACT: Students enrolled in the Undeclared Option are eligible to apply for and receive financial aid.

MYTH: “I’LL BE ON MY OWN AND I MIGHT PICK THE WRONG COURSES.”

FACT: You’ll be closely advised by the Counseling & Advising Center every step of the way. You’ll have help identifying possible careers, planning your schedule, and lots of support and encouragement.

"I chose the Undeclared Option because I knew I wanted something in the medical field, but wasn't sure whether it should be clinical or administrative. So I explored both, while taking general courses that would allow me to transfer. I planned to transfer from the beginning and it's so much less expensive to start at MCC.

"Ultimately I discovered that I was more challenged with biology and applied sciences courses, so I chose a science degree. All the courses I'd taken counted towards graduation. Along the way I even earned a certificate as a medical office assistant. Next I'm going into the medical imaging field.

"The Undeclared Option helps you get the general courses you need out of the way while you take courses in different areas to find out what you really like. Plus it saves you the trouble of declaring the wrong major, changing your mind, then having to go back and make up the missing courses."

Jenna Verno

*Liberal Arts-Sciences Major
Transferring to RIT*



"IT'S HARD TO COME OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL KNOWING WHAT YOU WANT TO DO FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE."