

## Report on Implementation of Deferred Declaration of Major (2017-2019)

### Strategic Planning Charge (2016-17, Task Force 1B—Curriculum Committee)

1B. Are there educationally sound policies that might address the **imbalance of majors** and do more to insure breadth and integration of learning?

[1] Might be consider moving major declaration to the sophomore year and develop an intentional, reflective declaration, encouraging students to make independent and informed choices of major based upon their aptitudes and passions?

### Approved Policy & Rationale (Approved by CLA Faculty 3/20/17)

#### **Deferred, deliberative declaration of major**

Conceptual underpinnings:

- Students should experience a variety of classes at Rollins College before declaring a major.
- Major declaration should be accompanied by a thoughtful reflection by the student.

Goals:

- Students will choose majors more effectively and change them less frequently.
- A more committed student choice of major will improve the ability to predict faculty needs.
- Students will be more cognizant of the nature and benefits of a liberal arts education.

Plan:

- All students enter Rollins with their major listed as “Exploring.” For those students who express a preference for a major, their major will be listed as “Exploring—x.”
- Students who need to be coded for specific purposes (e.g.: scholarships) will be coded based on preference forms.
- To declare a specific major, students must:
  - Take two classes from the desired major’s major map.
  - Take one class from two other divisions of the college—these courses can include competencies and neighborhood classes.
  - Fill out a declaration of major form that requires a reflection on why the major is being chosen.

Motion:

That all students be required to defer the declaration of a major until they have taken two courses from the major map and one course from two other divisions of the college. At that point, they will complete a reflection explaining their choice.

## Observations & Challenges re: Implementation

---

1. DegreeWorks (Advising and planning challenges)
2. Technical challenges: upkeep of static curriculum tables, false negatives
3. IT errors
4. Chasing late declarers by advisors, dean's office, and NCAA advisor
  - a. 111 students did not have a major declared at the end of Spring 2019
5. Cultural shift for faculty and chairs
6. Little adoption of "exploring—X" by students
7. Students seem to have adjusted to a "new normal"

## Deferred Declaration—What Have We Learned?

---

For a 50% sample of new students in the cohort of 201709, after what term did they meet the divisional and major requirements?

	201709	201801	201809	201901
2 courses in other divisions	195	39	9	8
2 courses from the major map	29	139	40	13

What percentage of students in the 201709 cohort were declared exploring at end of term:

	201709	201801	201809	201901	201909	202001
% exploring	94.2%	94.2%	67.7%	25.5%	1.9%	1.7%

For counts of majors declared by student, by term, see page 8.

## Deliberative Declaration—What Have We Learned?

---

Upon declaration in Foxlink, students are asked to complete a short survey and offer a short, written reflection.

Survey:

How did you choose your major? Please click all that apply (frequency of responses, out of 476)

- Discussed with my academic advisor (yes—356)
- Discussed the major with a faculty member who teaches in the major (yes—261)
- Took exploratory classes in the major (yes—374)
- Researched the major (yes—316)
- Interested in the knowledge and skills offered by the major (yes—401)
- Interested in exploring the liberal arts through this major (no—301)
- Prepared me for my lifelong goals (yes—369)
- Prepares me for my career (yes—377)

- Recommended by my peers (yes—0)
- Recommended by a family member (no—323)
- Met with my Center for Career and Life Planning Liaison (CCLP) (no—453)
- Took Focus 2 (no—456)
- Set up an appointment for major exploration in Handshake (no—472)
- Recommended by a Rollins alum (no—437)

Written Reflection Prompt:

In 200 words, please reflect on the following questions: What interested you in this major? What do you think is important about this area of study? How will this major help you achieve your aspirations?

Written Reflection Rubric:

	1	2	3	4
Quality of Writing	Poor writing style lacking in standard English, clarity, language used, and/or frequent errors in grammar, punctuation, usage, and spelling. Needs work.	Average and/or casual writing style that is sometimes unclear and/or with some errors in grammar, punctuation, usage, and spelling.	Above average writing style and logically organized using standard English with minor errors in grammar, punctuation, usage, and spelling.	Well written and clearly organized using standard English, characterized by elements of a strong writing style and basically free from grammar, punctuation, usage, and spelling errors.
Quality of Reflection	Explains the student's interest in narrow terms and fails to address the importance of the area of study.	Explains the student's own interests and priorities, but fails to address the importance of the area of study.	Explains the student's own interests and priorities and addresses broader implications for the importance of this area of study.	Explains the student's own interests and priorities in terms of growth and self-discovery. Demonstrates some knowledge of the field when discussing its importance.

Counts of scores for 100 students in 201709 cohort:

	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Quality of Writing</b>	1	11	54	36	2
<b>Quality of Reflection</b>	1	10	49	34	10

**“What interested you in this major” sample responses:**

I am interested in studying **psychology** because I have always been fascinated by the studies and research that psychologists have dedicated themselves to over the years. The inner-workings of the brain are complex and learning how to understand other people's behaviors and even your own, is a useful skill when working any job. I plan to work towards either being a social worker/therapist or a psychiatrist (depending on what path I want to take) and/or am hoping to eventually dedicate myself towards helping foster children.

I have come to college simply to acquire new skills and develop and strengthen old ones that will help me in my career. Therefore, I have decided to pursue a major in **Communication** Studies as my major to further develop my communication skills and pursue a minor a field that is new to me, Business Management. I am excited to step into this major because not only will communications greatly help me in a career that I am passionate about, church ministry, but in every aspect of my life.

I have a passion for the **Environment**, specifically sustainable development and urban planning. I think it's important to engage in work that gives you purpose and promotes a beneficial cause. Now, more than ever, our Earth needs our help. Humans have caused disruption with Earth's natural processes and it's our job now, with more knowledge than before, to restore our Earth and help diminish human's negative footprint. While development is unavoidable, we must focus on restoration and new infrastructure in the most sustainable ways possible. I hope to one day open an environmental nonprofit that teaches environmental responsibility and mindfulness.

I am interested in studying **Biology** because I have always enjoyed biology courses and have performed well in them, and I am interested in a career in biology either working with animals, restoring coral reefs, or studying infectious diseases. I think that biology is extremely important for conservation, global health, and curing and preventing diseases. Having a major in biology will allow me to obtain a job in the field doing what I love helping the world in some shape or form while keeping my mind constantly working.

The major of **International Business** interested me by being just that, international. The concept of being able to trade, communicate, form connections, engage in cultural activities, and understand cultures globally is an astonishing thing to me to consider when I think of my future desires. As for why this is important, the better question would be “why is this not important?”, for as you see to be fully integrated into multiple cultures and develop yourself as a global citizen, is this not the goal of liberal arts? The major gives me the best possible opportunity to become successful hands down.

I have always had a passion for reading books and discussing them. In my freshman year at Rollins, the Honors RCC that I was in sparked my interest in literary analysis. The next semester, I took higher level literature classes that solidified this interest. I believe that reading and discussing literature allows all people, not just students, to consider ideas and themes that they had not previously thought about. It strengthens analytical thinking and improves the vocabulary and speaking style of people. I plan on helping others receive the benefits of literature through teaching in High Schools or Middle Schools. **(English)**

This major interests me because I would like to work in the business world after college. Taking classes in this major will help me be prepared in my field of work one day. This major will help me develop an understanding of business organizations, communication skills with customers/clients, finances, presentation skills and marketing. When I graduate from Rollins I want to be prepared for any job and by declaring this major will help me get to where I aspire to be. By taking **Business management** classes will help me understand the ways of the business world and help me reach my goals.

I was a marine biology major, but after my second semester I met with my RCC advisor and he said because I was such an outgoing person I would be better in a field that allowed me to connect to people. I didn't want to do a traditional business major either, so after taking the intro to social entrepreneurship class I start to figure out I wanted to do work in non-profits. I realized the reason I wanted to do marine biology was because I wanted to make a change in the world, so **SE** allows me to do that.

I am interested in **Art History** because it combines my love of history and learning about the past, with creative expression. I'm interested in being able to see how events in the past shape and influence art throughout each century. This area of study is important because it preserves the past, but also allows art historians to analyze society through artworks. Art History allows us to learn about the past, but also analyze our modern society through art. This major will help me to achieve my aspirations of going to graduate school for art restoration.

I have always loved studying math, as I believe math, both pure and applied, is a fascinating subject. I am interested in studying **Computer Science** to build upon the math major. I believe math is vital in understanding how the world operates, especially in the realm of social justice.

As **Religious Studies** exists at an intersection of history, literature, anthropology, and philosophy, along with the added aspects the field uniquely possesses, the major encompasses many fields I am interested in. Religion is also generally found at the basis of many social justice issues. I hope to go into **Math** for social justice.

What interested me in this major is how **Economics** is involved in society, how it shapes us and how we shape it. It is very interesting to see how our behavior denoted as irrational can affect markets and how models seem to be perfect yet are not. The most important area of this study is the mathematical part, being able to understand the theoretical part through mathematics and applying it with data and understanding it. This major will help me achieve my aspirations because it will give me the knowledge I need for my future career.

My main interest in the **International Business** major is the global aspect to it. I have a Hispanic background and a desire to work with companies or corporations that deal with international trade/business. I think this major is more beneficial to me instead of a standard business management major because of the constant increase in globalization. The world is becoming more interconnected and I see an opportunity to take advantage of it through this major. This major will hopefully give me the opportunity to pursue profitable jobs on a global stage, which is one of my primary aspirations.

I have always been interested in the oceans and the animals that live within it, known and unknown. There is so much that we as a society do not know about what lurks beneath the depths, and understanding what lives down there could be useful in solving many problems that we face. What I want to do with this major is work with ocean conservation and repair the planet. With an understanding of **Marine Biology** that I will get with this degree, I hope to help a great team repair this planet and teach why it is important to protect.

Since I started in Fourth Grade Strings, I have always enjoyed studying music, and wish to continue to do so in college. I have also been interested in Computer Science for a number of years, having watched my dad work in the field as a child. I took my first Computer Science course during my first semester here at Rollins and realized that I loved it. I feel that there are many important life skills to be learned from studying both **Music and Computer Science**. Additionally, both majors will prepare me well to pursue a career in technology and/or music.

I think a major in **Philosophy** is the ultimate tool for learning how to read, write, and think critically because of the depth in which its students analyze complex positions and arguments. After countless hours of such analysis one suddenly finds himself more than ready to formulate an original argument and defend it with the same degree of tenacity. Furthermore, I think that just being exposed to the works of Plato, Kant, Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, and others can be life changing; as one not only starts to gain a real

understanding of conventional truths or flat out starts questioning them. Mandatory declaration of a major. Also a strong field to pursue knowledge in.

I became interested in this major when I had a shift in my career goals. I took time to reflect and explore courses before deciding where I felt most comfortable. I am planning on attending law school following my time at Rollins and the **Political Science** major has aligned perfectly with my minor and my future career endeavors. This major is important because it has exposed me to different behavioral patterns, politically and socially, not only in America but around the world — helping to also solidify my position as a global citizen and make the most of my liberal arts education.

I have been interested in **Biology** since I was a child. Growing up in Florida, I was often outside exploring the world and always wanting to know more. I was in a four-year bioscience program in high school that taught me the skills and techniques that I would use in a college research lab and fell even more in love with the field. Science is something that I've dedicated my life to, and I will always strive to contribute to the field. I plan on going into mortuary sciences, and a major in biology will prepare me for this field.

I have been interested in **Art History** since high school, and have continued to take classes in this field. I was originally looking into Political Science but found that Public Policy would allow me to explore more topics that I'm interested in such as Sustainable Development and Economics. I think that Public Policy is an extremely important area of study because of all the daunting challenges facing humanity in the 21st century that will require responsible, coordinated, and well-informed policies at all levels. My hope is that a major in **Public Policy** will prepare me to go to grad school for urban or regional planning by engaging me in the theory behind those policies related to that field.

Ever since I was little, I knew I wanted to help kids. I knew I wanted to make a difference in their lives however, I had no idea how. Many careers crossed my mind, careers like pediatrics and social worker however, none of them made me feel the way teaching makes me feel. I enjoy preparing for a class (through lesson plans), teaching, and seeing the student's reactions to the content that is being presented. It excites me to help and care for students as if they were my own kids. Being a teacher is a very important job. Future presidents, doctors, lawyers, architects, engineers, teacher, and many others will go through you, as their teacher and educator. **Education** is my passion!

I'm in the Dual Degree Program, and **International Business** is the only compatible major. Furthermore, the components of the International Business field (travel, interpersonal relations/communication, business, multiculturalism) are of great interest to me.

## Cohort of 2017

MAJR_CODE1	MAJR_DESC1	201709	201801	201809	201901	201909	202001
	<b>NOT Reported</b>				1	1	1
0000	Undeclared	7				1	
AMST	American Studies				1		
ANT	Anthropology			4	6	6	7
ARH	Art History			4	7	7	7
ART	Studio Art		1	1	2	1	
ASIA	Asian Studies				2	2	2
BCH	Biochemistry/Molecular Biolog	1	1	5	8	9	9
BIO	Biology	2	2	8	16	22	22
BMGT	Business Management	3	3	20	53	71	69
CHM	Chemistry			2	4	5	5
CMC	Critical Media-CulturalStudies				1	2	2
CMS	Computer Science		2	6	8	10	10
COMS	Communication Studies			9	27	35	35
ECO	Economics	1	2	3	13	17	16
EEDU	Elementary Education		1	4	12	16	16
ENG	English	3	1	8	10	12	14
ENV	Environmental Studies	1	1	2	7	12	11
HIS	History				2	3	3
INTA	International Affairs						1
INTB	International Business			12	40	45	43
INTR	International Relations			2	6	10	10
MAT	Mathematics			3	3	4	4
MBIO	Marine Biology			3	3	4	4
MUS	Music	8	8	10	14	16	16
PENG	Pre-Engineering		1	1	1	2	2
PHI	Philosophy			1	8	9	8
PHY	Physics			1	2	3	3
POLS	Political Science	1	1	6	11	17	17
PPE	Public Policy & Political Econ			2	4	4	5
PSY	Psychology	3	3	15	27	31	30
REL	Religious Studies			2	2	2	2
SE	Social Entrepreneurship			5	11	15	13
SOC	Sociology				3	6	6
THE	Theatre Arts	1	2	6	9	14	14
		31	29	145	324	414	407
EXPL	Exploring	405	269	147	46	3	6
XANT	Exploring - Anthropology	2	5	2	2	1	
XARH	Exploring - Art History	2	6	2			
XART	Exploring - Studio Art	2	1	1	1		
XASI	Exploring - Asian Studies			1			
XBCH	Exploring - Biochem/Molec Bid	6	11	6	2		
XBIO	Exploring - Biology	8	14	8	4		
XBMG	Exploring - Business Mgmt	9	23	23	9		
XCHM	Exploring - Chemistry	1	1	1			
XCMC	Exploring - Crit MedCultr Stud		1	3	2		
XCMS	Exploring - Computer Science	2	5	3			
XCOM	Exploring - Communication St	2	10	7	4	1	
XECO	Exploring - Economics	4	8	10	4		
XEDU	Exploring - Elem Education	1	5	5	2		
XENG	Exploring - English	4	7	4	4	1	
XENV	Exploring - Environmental Stu	3	7	7	3		
XHIS	Exploring - History	3	3	5	2		
XINB	Exploring - Intl Business	4	26	24	4		
XINR	Exploring - Intl Relations	5	3	2	3	1	1
XLAC	Exploring - Latin Am Caribb St				1		
XMAT	Exploring - Mathematics	2	3	1			
XMBI	Exploring - Marine Biology	2	2				
XMUS	Exploring - Music	4	5	2	1		
XPEN	Exploring - Pre-Engineering	1	2	2	1		
XPHI	Exploring - Philosophy		2	3			
XPHY	Exploring - Physics	1	2	1	1		
XPOL	Exploring - Political Science	3	9	5	1		
XPSY	Exploring - Psychology	12	21	12	4		
XSEB	Exploring - Social Entrep Bus	4	10	11	4		
XSOC	Exploring - Sociology	2	4	3	3	1	
XTHE	Exploring - Theatre Arts	5	6	3	3		
		499	471	304	111	8	7
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>449</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>422</b>	<b>414</b>
	<b>% in Exploring</b>	<b>94.2%</b>	<b>94.2%</b>	<b>67.7%</b>	<b>25.5%</b>	<b>1.9%</b>	<b>1.7%</b>