

Making a Major Decision  
By  
Liam Dacko

What do I want to do with my life? It's a question college students don't have to answer right away.

"The majority of majors have plenty of time to explore," Stonehill College academic advisor Richard P. Dufault said.

In his role at the college, Dufault is responsible for meeting with students who need help figuring out which path to take, however long that may be.

Schools like Stonehill mandate that students choose their major by the first semester of their junior year. It is in Dufault's experience, though, that students usually know what their major is by their sophomore of college.

"They should be at least taking courses in the major at that point," he said. "Definitely by sophomore year you should have an idea."

When choosing a major, students should consider several things, including their interests, their skill set, their limitations, and possible career paths they would like to take.

If students are having trouble figuring all of this out, they have a variety of resources to consult. This includes their school's Counseling and Testing, Academic Advising, and Career Services offices.

Although these resources are helpful, students should be aware of how they are using them. Dufault cautions students not to let the experience of others guide their decision when consulting resources such as these.

"Do your own homework," he said. "Ask advice, but you have to do your own research."

Fear of the future also should not guide a student's decision to study one subject instead of another.

"Don't worry about where you think the best career is," Dufault said. "Do what makes you happy."

Dufault recommends that students do what feels right for them, regardless of other factors.

"If you have a passion, try it," he said. "It's worth it, even if it doesn't work out."

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