



Undecided | The Genesis Experience

“The Genesis Experience has been helpful to me from the very beginning. I have discovered an immense amount of information about myself and it has helped me figure out what direction I want to pursue. It also provided me with occupations that fit closely with my personality, which I found very helpful because I want to make sure I end up doing something I love.”—Victor Cordero '12, Reading, PA

The Genesis Experience, designed for students who begin their college journey undecided about a major, is an expression of Alvernia’s commitment to educating the whole person. We encourage students to learn about themselves, explore the curriculum and make informed and committed choices based on their values, goals, abilities and emerging career interests. Through credit-bearing coursework, individual advising, access to information and resources and workshops, students learn about themselves and the full range of academic options available to them. Students often have diverse interests, and in many cases, want to gather and consider information and options fully before making important decisions. Our emphasis on exploration and informed decision making helps students understand and channel these strengths.

CURRICULUM

Since all Alvernia University students, regardless of major, complete the 54-55 credit Liberal Arts core in order to graduate, students entering college without having chosen a major should take courses that fulfill this requirement. Liberal Arts core courses include courses from the sciences, arts, languages, theology, philosophy, history, political science, sociology, literature, communications and mathematics. In addition to meeting graduation requirements, these courses allow students to explore a wide range of issues and topics which will help them explore and define their interests—an important part of making an informed choice of major.

COL 190: Majors and Careers—Students are encouraged to take COL 190: Majors and Careers, a credit-bearing elective course designed for students who are in the process of choosing a major. The course guides students through the process of selecting a major, giving them the opportunity for sustained and focused exploration of majors and careers. Students learn methods of self-evaluation, career decision-making theories and how to locate, evaluate and connect information on careers to majors offered at Alvernia University.

INTEREST AND PERSONALITY ASSESSMENTS

Students will have the opportunity to take the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator and the Strong Interest Inventory. These inventories are used to generate major and occupational prospects for students and provide them with an insight into their personality, interests and preferences.

ONE-ON-ONE ADVISING

Students also work individually with their advisor and the professional staff in the Genesis Office to select courses, explore their individual interests, discuss possible major choices and arrange learning opportunities that support exploration and decision making. Students may arrange to shadow professionals in areas of career interest, speak with Alvernia alumni, attend workshops and more.

WORKSHOPS

Students will have the opportunity to attend workshops that cover a variety of topics related to major and career exploration. In addition, they may attend spring career fairs and preview week workshops hosted by Alvernia’s Office of Career Development.

MAJOR EXPLORATION

Once students find an area they are interested in, they are given the opportunity to shadow an upper-classman or professor within the major. This provides the student with more insight into the major.

SOME FACTS ABOUT MAJOR EXPLORATION

- 75% of students are uncertain about their career choice when they begin college
- Between 50-75% of students who enter college with a declared major will change their mind at least once before they graduate
- Some studies have shown that students who begin college undecided display higher levels of academic achievement than do students who begin with a major
- Undecided students are likely to value intellectual exploration and development
- Students may delay choosing a major because of varied interests, deliberate or reflective thinking styles or a desire to evaluate many options before making a decision

CONTACT INFORMATION

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