

FAQ: DURING AND AFTER HOPKINS

1. I don't know what I want to major in—how can I figure this out?

If you have no idea what you might major in or have several majors in mind, we have some resources to help you focus.

- View the list of descriptions of majors and minors at:
<http://www.advising.jhu.edu/majors.htm>
- Read tips for undecided students at:
http://www.advising.jhu.edu/images/Undecided_student.pdf
- Use the following worksheets available online:
 - Worksheet One: [Exploring Yourself— A First Step in Planning Your College Career](http://www.advising.jhu.edu/images/handbook_pdfs/worksheet_1.pdf)
http://www.advising.jhu.edu/images/handbook_pdfs/worksheet_1.pdf
 - Worksheet Two: [Interesting Classes](http://www.advising.jhu.edu/images/handbook_pdfs/worksheet_2.pdf)
http://www.advising.jhu.edu/images/handbook_pdfs/worksheet_2.pdf
 - Worksheet Three: [Suggested Classes for Possible Majors](http://www.advising.jhu.edu/images/handbook_pdfs/worksheet_3.pdf)
http://www.advising.jhu.edu/images/handbook_pdfs/worksheet_3.pdf

After working with these resources, you may also want to meet with an advisor in the Office of Academic Advising or the Career Center.

2. How do I declare a major or minor? May I have more than one?

Freshmen in the Krieger School of Arts & Sciences are all classified as “Pre-Majors.” In spring of the freshman year, students meet with their academic advisor to declare their major.

Upperclassmen who wish to declare a major should meet with the DUS. To find the DUS for a department or program, visit http://www.advising.jhu.edu/open_adv.html. (Note: in some large majors, students will be asked to meet with a person other than the DUS to declare the major or minor.) The DUS will complete a "Declaration of Major" form with the department code, and the name and code of a faculty advisor. These completed forms are taken to the Registrar by the student. Forms to declare a major may be obtained in the Office of Academic Advising or in the Office of the Registrar.

Upperclassmen who wish to declare a minor should print the “Intent to Declare Minor” form (available at <http://www.advising.jhu.edu/images/Intent.pdf>) and meet with the DUS. The DUS completes the “Intent to Declare Minor” form, which the student turns in to the Office of Academic Advising. It is at the discretion of the DUS to assign a faculty advisor for a student with a minor.

Most students graduate with one major. What's important is to consider the academic reasons for the decision: are you declaring a major or a minor because of a true academic interest, or just for appearance? Employers or graduate programs will review your transcript and see the array of courses you've completed. A well-chosen internship or volunteer experience may be more impressive than a double major or list of minors.

3. I may want to apply to medical school sometime in the future, what courses are required for admission?

Pre-health students must plan to meet the admissions requirements of the health professions schools in which they are interested. Requirements vary somewhat from program to program so it is wise to check on specific programs and schools. The set of courses listed on this page will generally satisfy the requirements of many health profession schools.

The Premedical Requirements

- 1 year of General Chemistry & Lab
- 1 year of Organic Chemistry & Lab
- 1 year of Biology & Lab
- 1 year of General Physics & Lab
- 1 year of English
- 1 year of Calculus (or 1 semester of Calculus & 1 semester of Statistics)
- 1 semester of Biochemistry (required by some schools)

For more comprehensive information about the health professions:

- Consult the chart at http://www.advising.jhu.edu/images/PreMed_Advising_flyer.pdf
- Visit the Office of Pre-Professional Advising on the third floor of Garland Hall, and view their website at <http://web.jhu.edu/prepro/index.html>

4. If I am a student in the Whiting School of Engineering, may I declare a second major in the Krieger School of Arts & Sciences?

Students whose first major is in WSE may have a second major in KSAS. One important note: these students must take a total of 12 writing-intensive credits to conform with the KSAS requirement (at least 3 credits must be taken at KSAS). Students whose first major is in KSAS may have a second major in WSE with no special requirements. WSE students who wish to declare a KSAS major should meet with an academic advisor in the Office of Academic Advising on the third floor of Garland Hall. KSAS students who wish to declare a WSE major should meet with an academic advisor in the Office of Academic Affairs in 126 New Engineering Building.

5. I will be graduating next year and have no idea what to do after Hopkins. Where can I get assistance?

Hopkins offers many offices and resources to assist you. We've described actions that you should take in the publication "Preparing for Life After Graduation." Visit this pdf link:

<http://www.jhu.edu/~careers/parents/handbook/preparing.pdf>

Also consider options from scholarships and fellowships. More information is available at:

<http://www.advising.jhu.edu/scholarships/index.html>.

6. I want to apply to graduate school—how do I get information about this process?

There are many issues to consider regarding graduate school: programs, finances, timing. The Career Center and the Office of Academic Advising offer advising about the general graduate and business school application process. Consult the Office of Academic Advising publication: "A Step-by-Step Guide to Graduate School." Students should also seek advice from their individual academic department advisors about the graduate school process in their fields of interest. The Office of Pre-Professional Advising offers advising and information about law school, study in the health professions, or joint degree programs in these areas. Directories and resources for graduate study are available in the Career Center library and online at www.jhu.edu/~careers, and in the Office of Pre-Professional Advising library.

You can also find more detailed information at:

<http://www.jhu.edu/~careers/parents/handbook/preparing.pdf>