

ENFORCING A DEADLINE FOR DECLARING A MAJOR

Proposal

Students who enroll at Case Western Reserve University as first-year students are expected to declare a major before registering for classes for their fifth semester of enrollment. Transfer students are expected to declare a major before registering for their third semester at Case Western Reserve. Beyond that point, students who have not declared a major will have a registration hold placed on their accounts until they have done so. Those who will have earned fewer than 60 credit-hours (including transfer, AP, IB, and proficiency credit) by the end of their fourth semester for students who started as first-year students, or by the end of their second semester for transfer students, may request that their dean in Undergraduate Studies allow them to register for the next semester by lifting the registration hold. Students may later change their majors should their academic interests change.

Background

We currently have a statement in the General Bulletin that students “are expected to declare a major no later than the end of the second year,” but we have no enforcement mechanism. As a result, some students continue into their third and fourth years without having declared a major, and there is always a small group from whom Undergraduate Studies needs to collect a formal major declaration in order to certify their degrees for graduation. (Currently, 41 students who matriculated as first-year students in August 2009 have not declared a major, about 5% of the number enrolled on the Fall 2011 census date.) In many cases, they are working purposefully in pursuit of a major, but without the benefit of an assigned advisor in the field or the academic requirements report in SIS that shows all degree requirements and which have been satisfied. In the interest of improving advising and ensuring that students are connected to their major fields, this proposal would require that students declare a major before undertaking the second half of their undergraduate work.

Approved by the FSCUE Subcommittee on Academic Standing, 2/28/2012

Reviewed and supported by the FSCUE Curriculum Subcommittee, 2/29/2012

Reviewed and approved by the FSCUE, 3/6/2012