



A street in Baltimore

*“This is one of the  
most important  
decisions in your  
life.”*



Classroom at Loyola

## You Can't Pick A Major By Spinning a Wheel

### By Demitri Byrne

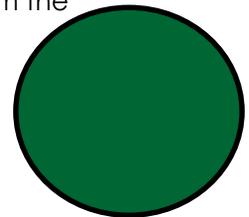
There it is. After a year of constant rewriting of the essay and personal interviews, you did it! The screen's backlight makes the words shine like a pot of gold. *Accepted.* You got into college and now it's finally over. You click the link under the acceptance letter and go to pay and officially become a student. You fill in all of the questions, breezing past them all. What's your name? Easy. Where do you live? Super Easy. You finish 98 percent of the questions and have one remaining. What is your major? It's then you realize something—after all the essays, and all the afterschool clubs, and after pet sitting for two weeks unpaid—you still have no clue what you want to study...you have no clue what you want to major in when you come to college.

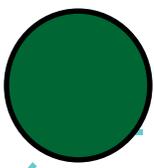
This feeling is something we all face nearing the end of our high school experience. All through life we have been forced into learning stuff we don't care about, but that changes in college and especially at Loyola. Whatever you pick defines what field you want to go to. Picking a major isn't easy, for sure; the choice requires a lot of thought, effort and, most importantly, commitment. Saying this, picking your major can be a lot easier than you think (and, no, it's not just doing the BuzzFeed quiz). Anyone, no matter how impulsive, can find something here for them. Loyola gives us the tools to find what you want to do in a healthy and smart way while still allowing us to find ourselves, and make one of the most important decisions in our lives.

### Going Undecided Isn't Something To Feel Bad About

It's fine not to know everything straight away. It's fine to want to think over what you want for your future. Life isn't as simple as a jigsaw puzzle. Sometimes you think the pieces fit perfectly but over time the edges start to morph and shape into something completely new. What makes humans unique is our ability to change major parts of our personality and interest in a few hours. If you are super-worried about being unable to pick your major, the best course of action would be to go into freshman year as an Undeclared or Undecided student and try everything you can to find what you like.

We often have this idea that Undecided majors are just lazy and don't want to work hard the first year of college but that is far from the truth. Most Undecided majors are using this time to find themselves due to how they fear their desires and interest will change over time. Many of the first-years who are still undecided just feel like “the [the major] may not resonate with my interests down the road. Although I know I can change my major at any time I still struggle to choose be-





cause of this" (Ethan Srivatjanapong '28)." Loyola is here to give guidance to Undecided students by providing courses that you may not normally take like Philosophy, the Fine Arts, and Natural Sciences. The [core classes](#) at Loyola allow you the chance to find out what you want to do in life. Taking unique classes also allows you to find your diamond in the ruff in a potential career.



Benches outside Humanities

## Remember You Aren't Alone In This Feeling Of Indecision

The period of starting college can be a stressful one. It's a new chapter in your life, you might feel scared, alone, and unsure of what you want to do. You might worry that if you make one wrong move you could end up on the street just because you picked Greek Art History as your major in a fit of fearing that something would happen if you said "I don't know." A bad major plus the debt of college is stressful. It can feel like we are alone sometimes, that we are the only ones with these problems and everyone else has their life figured out.

Well buddy, I have some important news for you. Everyone here, every single student from your roommate, seatmate in class, or person on the complete other side of the campus feels exactly what you are feeling right now. The students you see, even those who seem to have it all planned, are usually in the same boat as you and are worried about their choices as well. If you are feeling worried about what major you are going to pick or if you ended up picking the wrong one, you shouldn't feel bad about it. (Anxiety is a topic that is discussed openly at Loyola, and nobody shames others for having anxious thoughts.) Loyola has the tools that allow you to find yourself and make sure you are making the right choices. To quote a professor at Loyola—when feeling like you can't find your major, doing the following can help: "talking to a faculty member in the major you are interested in, looking in the course catalog at course descriptions, or going to the [Career Center](#). The number of resources you can use is incredible!" (Leary). We at Loyola support everyone as it falls under our Jesuit values.

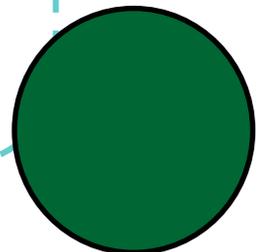
## Leave Your Comfort Zone

It's the advice that you've probably heard two million times by now. When starting high school, during the club fair, from your parents. It's advice that at this point might as well be written on your arm with how much you see, hear and read it but we hear it all the time because it's true. Leaving your comfort zone and trying stuff that is 100 percent new during the first semester of being an Undecided student can help you come to terms with what you like and don't like. You can never learn what you like—and don't like—if you never try.



If we never left our comfort zone, we would still be at home living in our parent's basement working 9-5 as grocery store cashiers. It's hard to leave your comfort zone. . . I mean, why should I take Intro to Roman Art? What is that going to teach me about myself or add to my future? You will never know what anything will teach you about yourself or your interests without trying something new. So say it with me

***"Well buddy, I have some important news for you. Everyone here, every single student from your roommate, seatmate in class, or person on the complete other side of the campus feels exactly what you are feeling right now. "***



now—leave your comfort zone.

Each class at Loyola can teach you skills or knowledge that can lead to places. Take Roman Art class. That class could make you learn knowledge that a) makes you seem smart, and b) allows you to have that information always in your brain for the future. According to another student, leaving your comfort zone allows you to "... look into what you enjoy in terms of creative outlets." (Turner '27). That Roman Art class would allow you to learn more about art and the process of making it to see if it's your thing. It may be what you are really into, or it may not. Either outcome is fine as in the end you took a chance to find out what you are passionate about.

## The Career Center

You just let out one of the biggest mental sighs of all time; I mean, it is in our nature as humans to do stuff by ourselves but the Career Center and the helpers in it can do a lot. The Career Center allows you to meet with a Career Advisor who (as the name suggests) helps you find stuff you enjoy and considers the amount of work you will have to do for it. It also helps you find an industry that's fit for you. The Career Center also has events that are free and open to anyone, so you have no reason not to go.

Events like *Meet the Firms*, and *Loyola Ready Career Fair* allow you to meet other students, reflect on what you did to get into Loyola in the first place and what you want to continue from your high school life. Most importantly, The Career Center lets you learn about industries or jobs ranging from positions in companies like a Bookkeeper (someone who keeps track of money at a small level for companies) to a Fire Investigator (looks at fire and sees what causes it) with how broad the events are. You never may have heard of an Actuary before (someone who uses math to define risks and probability) but at the Career Center you can learn about jobs that are under the radar and perfect for you. Information that the Career Center gives us sheds light on how there are tons of different jobs we plain have never heard of. One senior states how it can help you "discover an obscure major you didn't know about or learn how to fabricate a major tailored to your interests"(Ford '24).. Jobs are flexible; so, take this time to find out what job you want and don't stress if you can't figure it out right away. Loyola has a lot of resources and is always here to help.

So then.....that's it. That's all the advice, testimonies, and personal experiences I have for you. College can be scary and is one of the biggest steppingstones for a human being next to learning how to walk and talk. Choosing a major is important—but it doesn't have to be stressful—so use everything you have available to you and I'm sure you will make the right decision. I wish you the best in your Loyola journey and hope you manage to find out your path in life. I'm sure you'll make the right choice.



Student discovering life while biking

***"That is exactly what it is, though, you will never know what anything will teach about yourself or your interests without trying something new."***

