# Your Three-Semester Plan for Choosing a Major

## SEMESTER 1: ADJUSTMENT & AWARENESS

**GOAL:** Focus on adjusting to college and increasing academic and career awareness

### Strategy 1: Get to know what is available to you on this campus

| The People | Academic and Career Advisers, residence hall staff, coaches, professors, peer advisers, etc...  We are all here to assist you in navigating your college experience! |
| The Resources | Campus has a wide variety of student support services |
| The Opportunities | Campus has so many ways to get involved, meet new people, and find out what you enjoy |
| The Balance | Take the Study Skills / Time Management course (EDUC 104 / 105) |

### Strategy 2: Get to know UWSP Academics

- **General Education Program**
- **Degree Types**
- ** Majors by Interest Area**
- **Course Catalog Majors, Minors, & Certificates A-Z List**
- **Admissions Majors and Minors A-Z List**

### Strategy 3: Get to know the UWSP Advising & Registration process

- [Drop/Add](#) registration deadlines, advising and [registration timelines](#), and how to navigate your accesSPoint

### Strategy 4: Get to know available majors and career paths

- Enroll in an introductory course within a potential major (ask your adviser for suggestions)
- Identify your values, interests, skills and personality, the relationships between personality and major, and between major and career, on the [Major and Career Exploration](#) section of our website using tools such as: CareerLocker, 16Personalities, What Can I Do with this Major?
- Complete your [Handshake Profile](#)
- Attend a campus [Career Event](#) (Employer Information Session, Career Preparation Workshop, Career Fair)

## SEMESTER 2: EXPLORATION

**GOAL:** Actively explore possible academic and career choices

### Strategy 1: Talk to people and learn more about the world of work

- Narrow down potential majors with your adviser
- Talk with friends, family, and professors about their backgrounds and the paths that led them to their career
- Research specific occupations to learn hiring trends, salary projections, necessary educational level, etc. such as the Bureau of Labor Statistics [Occupational Outlook Handbook (OOH)](#)

### Strategy 2: Seek out new experiences

- Consider studying away (abroad or in U.S.). For more information, visit the [Office of International Education](#)
- [Join a student organization](#), [volunteer within the community](#), or [pursue a part-time job](#) to further develop skills and gain new experiences

## SEMESTER 3: CLARIFY & COMMIT

**GOAL:** Commit to a Major

### Strategy 1: Expand on your experiences outside of the classroom

- Update your Handshake profile
- Conduct [informational interviews](#) and/or job shadow a professional within your potential field
- Take on a leadership role within a student organization, at work, or within a volunteer role
- Identify professional organizations and read publications specific to your major / career goals

### Strategy 2: Make the big step

- Consider adding on minor(s) or certificate(s) and finalize your educational plan
- Declare your major with the appropriate department and establish a positive working relationship with your new adviser(s)