This is a guide to assist undeclared/exploratory students with major exploration. It is important that you actively explore major options. If you decide on a major during this process, simply stop by the major department to complete the change of major paperwork.

Your advisor may require some or all of the following steps before you are cleared for registration.

**Step One: Assessment**

Learn more about yourself by taking the Focus Assessment online through Career Services:

- Go to Career Services at the following URL: www.usm.edu/career-services
- Click on “Online Resources”
- Click on “FOCUS”
- Select “New User? Click Here to Get Started”
- Enter the following Access Code: ______________ (see advisor for code)
- Select StudentSuccess as the group
- Be sure to select a user name and password you can easily remember

Identify a few majors to investigate further.

List all majors and/or careers you identified as potential options below:

__________________  __________________  __________________

**Step Two: Degree Program Web Research**

O*NET OnLine has detailed descriptions of the world of work for use by job seekers, workforce development and HR professionals, students, researchers, and more! [http://www.onetonline.org/](http://www.onetonline.org/)

The University of Southern Mississippi offers bachelor's degree programs through its six degree-granting colleges, a total of 142 distinct undergraduate plans. Begin your search at [http://www.usm.edu/undergraduate](http://www.usm.edu/undergraduate).

Look for departmental achievements, curriculum requirements, student and alumni news and other links to help you learn more about the degree program options available to you.

Now research degree requirements by selecting a major and clicking on “Degree Details Download PDF” (grey box on the page).

Additional Resources: [http://www.usm.edu/career-services/career-resources-online](http://www.usm.edu/career-services/career-resources-online)
Step Three: Degree Evaluation

If you are considering a change of major, the “What-If Scenario” tool can help you view your current credits as they would apply to any of the degrees offered at Southern Miss.

- Log into SOAR [https://soar.usm.edu](https://soar.usm.edu), then select “Self Service,” then “Student Center.
- Click on the My Records
- Click on the Create a what-if scenario
- Click on the CREATE NEW REPORT button
- Choose the “new” Academic Program/Department of interest
- Click the Submit Request button

Review and print the “What-If Analysis” for the majors you are considering.

Step Four: Informational Interview

To gain a personal perspective on potential majors, speak with a representative of an academic department or advisement center. Set up an informational meeting with one of the five college advisement centers, a faculty member or a junior or senior in the program. Ask good questions. See if the faculty and students in this major have similar interests to yours, and don’t forget to ask about their alumni to get an idea of career paths that may be in line with the major.

Have your departmental contact sign below when completing the informational meeting:

Departmental Representative:_________________________ (Please print name)

Departmental Rep. Signature: __________________________ Date: ________________

I understand the major exploration activities above (Steps One through Four) are required in order for me to register for the upcoming semester. If required, I agree to return this form completed.

I understand that delaying my major declaration puts me at risk for delay of graduation and that it is not good practice to remain an undeclared student after earning 45 credit hours.

Name: ________________________________ ID ________________

Signature________________________________ Date ________________

Academic Advisor Signature: ________________________________

(Adapted from Georgia Southern University, Guide to Sophomore Major Exploration)