Additional Resources

To make the transition more seamless, and get guidance along the way, find a coach or mentor. Career Services staff, academic advisors, or mentors on campus can be great starting points.

Reach out to other students in your new Department or in a similar situation as you via Facebook, and become a member of Illinois Tech Student Community Page. (Image Below)

Meet with a Career Service Representative and Discover your Strengths

Codes to the Change of Major Form are Found Below.

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Career Services
Herman Hall
3241 S. Federal Street, Suite 113
Phone: 312-56-6800

One Stop
McCormick Tribune Campus Center
3201 S. State Street, Suite 106
Phone: 312-567-3810

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Chicago, IL 60616

The Big Switch

The Image Above:
An Abstract Ladder Depicting the Steps to a Career Path More Suited to One’s Needs
Why are you in this major?

How did you pick your major? Was it because you didn’t know what you wanted to do, outside pressure, or someone suggested you do it? Reasons for picking a major can vary but the most important to you should guide you in what you want to study. If you thought you did choose the right major for the right reasons, it might be time to re-evaluate why you’re studying what you’re studying as life experiences impact your decisions.

Common Reasons of why Students change their major

- Not enjoying/ losing interest in the material learned in class
- Realignment of values and strengths as they mature: passions vs. money vs. strengths
- Not knowing their skills/ strengths or how to explore what they are
- Lack of understanding/ immensely struggling to get the material taught in class
- Finally dictating their own future instead of listening to external voices

How are your study habits?

While you’re studying does it feel like a chore that you slug through? When you’re working at your best, time can flow by as you become fully engaged in your work. If work feels like forced due to lack of interest, then it may be time to change majors. If work is still fulfilling to you but things aren’t working out, then it may be time to change study habits to become fully engaged in studying or homework.

Major & Personality

There have been several studies conducted to find correlation between an individual’s personality based on the Big 5 and their major choice. Personalities gravitate or thrive in a major because the field of study suits that person. To explore your personality and discover a well-suited path to pursue, make an appointment with a Career Coach.

BIG 5

Openness
Interest and open-mindedness towards new or different experiences and ideas.

Conscientiousness
Preference towards organization and planning or flexibility and spontaneity.

Extraversion
Tendency towards being outgoing and energetic or self-reflective and reserved.

Agreeableness
Trust or suspicion/challenging of other people.

Neuroticism
Tendency to experience intense emotional responses or experience emotional stability.

Making the Transition More Seamless

Common Student Concerns

There are many challenges that students face before they embark on their new journey. If you feel as though you’ve over-analyzed every avenue, you are not alone. Below are examples of thoughts that cross the mind before making the big academic transition:

- What if I change my major again?
- Where do I start?
- What would my parents or family think about this?
- What if it is too late to change?
- Would people make fun of me or view me differently?

When it is all said and done, you are the one living your life. You must determine the value those factors hold in your life. Decide what your priorities are, and make the best choice for YOU.

Steps to Take

1. Decide what new major is Your Fit
2. Obtain a Change of Major Form using either Code on the back of this Booklet or at One Stop
3. Determine the Department Head of your New Major
4. Email the Department Head to Obtain Signature on Form and Become Familiar with Your New Perspective Advisor
5. Obtain Signature from Both the Department Head and New Advisor
6. Turn into the Office of Undergraduate Academic Affairs (UGAA)
7. Request an Audit from a UGAA representative
8. Meet with your New Advisor to Make Your Modified Academic Path More Seamless