Q. Dear Advisor: Right now my major is undeclared in University College, but I’ve finally decided on a major. Do I need to see my current or my new major advisor? I’ve looked at the requirements for my new major on-line; is it important that I officially declare right away? – Finally Decided

A. Dear Finally Decided: You don’t need to see your current advisor in order to declare a new major. If your new major is in another college, you will be admitted to that college when you are approved for the major. You will no longer be in University College, unless you are choosing an Interdisciplinary Studies major.

Many departments offer information sessions so that students can get more information about the major before declaring it. The Advising Resource Center Website has a list of majors that require attendance at an information session prior to being admitted (http://advising.arizona.edu). First, click on ‘Students’ and then ‘Major Information Sessions.’ If the major you want doesn’t appear on this list, then you should make an appointment with the academic advisor for that major. The Advising Resource Center Website also has contact information for all academic advisors in the University. First click on ‘Students’ and then ‘Who is my Academic Advisor?’

Even if you are familiar with the major requirements, as displayed on the Academic Program Requirements Report (APRR) in the Catalog, there are good reasons to officially declare a major now:
• Some departments do not allow students to declare their major during Priority Registration (March 19th – April 20th). If you don’t declare before then, you may have to wait until the end of the semester.
• Many departments reserve priority registration only for officially declared majors and minors. If you are not declared, you may have trouble getting into classes for your major.
• Your major academic advisor is a valuable source of information. It is always in your best interest to meet with him/her to verify your understanding of the major and to ask any questions that you have.
• Developing a relationship with your major advisor and/or college advisor enables your advisor to be more effective. Advisors can help you pick classes that meet your interests, find internships or research assistantships, suggest different career or graduate school options, and address any academic difficulties.

Going to an information session or meeting with an academic advisor does not commit you to declaring a certain major. If you are still a little unsure, attending an information session or speaking with an academic advisor will reveal essential facts that you need to make your decision.