A Message from the Dean

Greetings! I am Dr. Stokely, Dean of Academic Engagement and Student Support. If you have not declared or been accepted into a major, your academic home will be in The School of Academic Programs & Services, and I will be your dean.

One of the key decisions that college students have to make is the selection of a major. If you know what you want to major in but have not declared, you should contact the Admissions Office before coming to Orientation. If you’re not ready to make that decision, it is OK to be undecided. Being undecided places you in the position to explore and investigate your areas of interest and educational and career goals. But, keep in mind that postponing the decision to declare a major may cost you additional money and delay your graduation date. So, we will assist you to declare your major as soon as you are ready.

**Academic advisors in the Office of Undeclared Students** will assist you to identify and explore your options, to learn techniques to define your strengths, skills, and interests, to understand university policies and procedures, and to develop a strategy to help you choose an appropriate major. You will be expected to meet with your advisor several times each semester.

**At Orientation**, I will have the opportunity to meet you personally and then you will meet with a faculty advisor who will assist you to register for your first semester courses. To prepare to get the most out of your Orientation day, you are expected to review the following materials.

- **Undergraduate Programs, Concentrations & Options**
  [http://www.ship.edu/Academics/Programs/Undergraduate/](http://www.ship.edu/Academics/Programs/Undergraduate/)

- **Undeclared Template for Scheduling [pdf]**
  [https://d2l.ship.edu/d2l/le/content/498214/viewContent/5071660/View?ou=498214](https://d2l.ship.edu/d2l/le/content/498214/viewContent/5071660/View?ou=498214)

- **The Office of Undeclared Students’ website** at:
  [http://www.ship.edu/U undeclared/](http://www.ship.edu/U undeclared/)
  You will find the links to the various PUBLICATIONS very helpful.
Should you have any questions, see the GPS *Frequently Asked Questions* link, or write them down and bring with you to orientation. There will be lots of people here to help you!

In the **School of Academic Programs and Services**, we have several programs that may impact you directly. In addition to the **Office of Undeclared Students**:

Our School houses the campus **LEARNING CENTER**, which offers free tutoring for your classes and appointments to help with your papers. The Learning Center, with its very friendly staff, is conveniently located on the main level of the library, right past Starbucks.

The School is also home to the **OFFICE of DISABILITY SERVICES**. If you have a documented disability, our caring staff in Disability Services will support you in getting accommodations for your classes, such as extended time or note-takers.

If you are a student-athlete, you may find the School’s **Office of ACADEMIC SUPPORT SERVICES for STUDENT-ATHLETES** to be helpful. This office works closely with the Athletics Department and coaches to support students’ academic success.

Finally, the School is home to the **ACADEMIC SUCCESS PROGRAM**, which supports students who enter Shippensburg University through either the Summer Bridge or Early Start Programs, both of which provide an extended orientation to higher education and help students successfully navigate the transition from high school.

*The School of Academic Programs and Services welcomes you, and we are eager to support your academic success here at SHIP.*

**Contact Info**

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