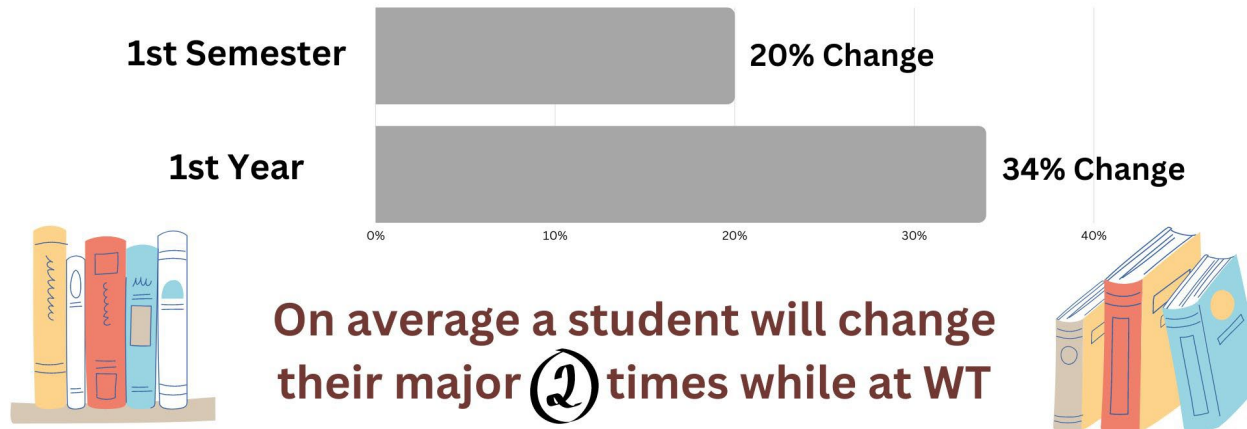


CHANGING YOUR MAJOR IS COMMON

A study of First-Time in College



Changes in a Student's Program of Study

Students often come to college with an idea of what they would like to study but not always the career path that they are hoping will emerge from their studies. Due to this common theme, Advising Services and the Office of Career and Professional Development have created a survey administered at each greenlighting appointment to help the student start thinking about life after college and what industry they would like to work in. These conversations may spark the need to change a major, but also engaging in subject area course work for the first time, and general change of interest, can all inspire a student to change their major.

A study was done on the 2017 class of first-time in college student to see how often, and at what point students are most likely to change their major.

It was found that the most likely time for a student to change their major was during the first year of attendance at WT (34% of first-time in college student changed their major during the first year).

Over the course of 6 years (12 long semesters) each student was analyzed to see if they changed their major from one semester to the next. It was found on average a student will change their major 2 times while at WT. The most amount of times a student from the 2017 cohort changed their major was 6 times.

Students high school GPA was also examined to see if it could be used as a predictive factor. This was done to see if a student would change their major during the first year. No significant correlation was found between GPA and major changes; however, it was found that the lower a student's high school GPA was the higher likelihood they had of dropping out the first year, thus they had less opportunities to change their major.

Data Bite # 23 – Student Major Changes

HS GPA	% Changed Major	Drop Rate in 1st Year
1.9-2.5	16.7%	76.9%
2.51-2.75	30.0%	66.7%
2.76-3.0	42.5%	52.4%
3.01-3.25	36.4%	47.3%
3.26-3.5	34.0%	35.5%
3.51-3.75	28.7%	30.7%
3.76-4.0	27.8%	20.4%