

Transcript for “Episode 10. Advisors & Choices”

Part 1. Finding Your Thing

- 200+ Majors
- 82 Languages
- Study abroad – 52 countries
- 750+ Student Organizations

Stephanie Lewis (Advisor, School of Public & Environmental Affairs): I had a student terribly, terribly stuck; just horribly stuck. Just - internal battle, didn't know, just didn't know. And finally he said, "I want to be around boats." I said, "OK, good! Now what? OK, you want to be around boats." He goes, "I don't know, I want to be around boats." I said, "OK, let's get you around boats. Where do you want to be around these boats?" He goes, "I want to be in London around boats." Excellent! All right. So that summer, I worked with him through that semester. He got an internship in a boat yard, at a shipping boat yard, in London.

Taylor White (IU Sophomore): I am one of the kids that changes their major all the time! I started off coming in wanting to do something art-related. But then I told myself that maybe I couldn't do something art-related in the future that could get me a sustainable career. So I dabbled in psychology, education, interior design, until it finally just led me back to a studio major... It's just always been a passion of mine, and I didn't think I could make a career out of a passion. And then someone was like, "You should just try it. Just do it." And most of the time it was my advisors that kind of pointed me in the direction to follow my dream.

Sharon Hay (Advisor, University Division): Sometimes just, well, what career, well, what major – that doesn't seem to have the same effect sometime of "OK, envision this person that you'd like to be in ten years. What is she doing? What kind of people is she working around? Is she extroverted, is she introverted, does she enjoy information, or data, or does she enjoy children, does she... and sometimes that will get the conversation. And I could see her (this was an appointment I just had yesterday)... she even mentioned at one point, "You know, my dad has this one friend who's doing this and I always loved talking with her." And we talked about having an information interview with that friend, and going to where she works, and just asking her, "What did you major in? What kinds of things were you interested in?"

Part 2. Exploring and Enhancing

Jenifer Berry (Advisor, 21st Century Scholars): You can take courses that are very degree-specific and "track" yourself. I like to use the General Education program as a chance to take things that you won't be able to take. You know, if you're going to be that marketing major and then you go into the corporate world and you work in sales and marketing, this might be your true last chance to take an art class. Or to explore something that maybe you've never explored before. And that's one way in which General Education, minors, certificates can come in and enhance the degree. A lot of times med schools are really looking for students who didn't just do science, biology. They're looking for all kinds of students. Because they're realizing the interconnected nature of our society.

Kamen Rose (IU Junior): With marketing and advertising, there's really two sides to it. There is the creative side, which is actually making the advertisements, actually doing the art, and I've studied a lot in photography and graphic design and also art – I like to draw and I like to do abstract art. But there's another side, which is interacting with clients and people and actually proposing the ideas – more with public speaking. And I decided for a job I wanted to go more the second route: actually talking to clients and working with clients and the creative team to kind of decide what they wanted to do for their campaign. But I still really love art and wanted to still be able to get that in my education and also still be trained so I could easily work with a creative team. And so I took an art class – randomly! – because I thought it would be fun. It was ceramics. And I absolutely loved it. So then I said, OK, I'm going to do a fine arts minor.

Richard Hvale (Advisor, Health Professions): I try to find out what their interests, what their passions, are and then try to find academic areas and academic courses that fit those. So, for example - and I meet with a lot of pre-professional students, pre-med students who have a strong interest in health issues. So of course they have to take courses that are required to gain admission to medical school, for example. But then they can have any academic major they want to choose. But then I may explore, "Gee, would you be interested in a history course like The History of Epidemics? Or The Black Death?" Is there a theme to their interests and can we find courses that fall under this theme? Because then courses will have relationships among each other, and I think that makes for a better learning experience. When they can make connections between courses.

Shikun Ding (IU Sophomore): I talked to my advisors before about what kind of projects, or programs I can do in order to improve myself about my major, computer science. So I heard from my advisor that I can do some research work that might help. And that is what I am doing now; I'm doing research about CPU register location for the department.

Carmund White (Advisor, Kelley School of Business): It's a great job. And I hope that students know that, really, I mean, the advisors on this campus – not just Kelley, but all the advisors – are so committed to helping students do what they want to do. That's really what it's about. And

doing it well. And we spend a lot of time figuring out how to do that and how to make them comfortable here at school and help them be successful. I mean, we want everybody to know that.

An SAC Workshop by

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