



Exploring Majors at JBU

A Guidebook for Finding a Major
2026–2027



Using this guide

Welcome to JBU! Being an undeclared major is an exciting opportunity to explore possibilities for your future! We understand that it can also be a bit intimidating with so many great options to major in – especially when everyone else seems to know what they want to do and college isn't free! The pressure can be intense and that's where this guidebook comes in. (And by the

way, not everyone knows what they want to do and many will change their majors at least once!) **Exploring majors at JBU** isn't about wandering around aimlessly or waiting for inspiration to fall. It's about deliberately engaging with possibilities and connecting with people who can help you sort through the choices. It's exploring with the expectant **hope of discovery**.





Mapping Things Out

All good journeys begin with preparation and travelers around the world know the value of a good guidebook. Inside information and thoughtful consideration can make the difference between a great trip and a nightmare. This section is designed to help you think through the process of deciding what classes to take this semester and what other steps you will need to plan for as you begin exploring.



Exploring

This section contains information to assist you in the exploration process. It lists helpful internet sites, contact information, and activities you can do now and during the school year to help you in your decision-making process. The more you get out and explore, the better your experience will be!



Discovery

This is what it's all about! Here are the steps you need to take to actually declare a major at JBU. This is the shortest section of the guidebook since the process is extremely simple! And it's easily reversible if you find you need to change or modify your decision for any reason.

Mapping Things Out

Where are you now?

In the space below define your values and vision for a life well lived. What things are important for you to have in your life and career for you to feel successful?

Keep these things in mind as you're exploring majors so you'll be able to recognize if something is a good fit for you or not.

You may not know what you want to major in but chances are good that you know what you don't want. From the below **list of all available majors** at JBU, **cross off** those you know you're definitely not interested in. Put a question mark by the ones you can't figure out by name only.

Accounting
Artificial Intelligence
Biblical and Theological Studies
Biochemistry
Biology
Business: General
Chemistry
Chemistry Education
Christian Ministry and Formation
Civil Engineering
Computer Science
Computer Science Education
Construction Management
Criminal Justice
Cybersecurity
Data Analytics
Economics
Education Studies
Electrical Engineering
Elementary Education
English
English Education
Entrepreneurship & Innovation
Family and Human Services
Film
Finance
Game Design
Graphic Design
History

Humanitarian and Disaster Relief
Integrated Marketing Communications
Integrated Music Studies
Intercultural Studies
International Business
Kinesiology
Management
Marketing
Mathematics
Mathematics Education
Mechanical Engineering
Music Education: K-12 Certification
Nursing
Outdoor Leadership
Performing Arts
Philosophy
Photography
Political Science
Professional Flight
Psychology
Robotics and Mechatronics Engineering
Social Studies Education
Spanish
Studio Art

Pre-Professional Programs:

Pre-Health Professions
Pre-Law



From the previous page, **list the majors** that are left and that you are considering, and the ones you need to learn more about. Number or group them by priority or interest.

Mapping things out

Getting the lay of the land

Basic first semester schedule

Required courses:

- Gateway Seminar
- English I or II

+

2 or more **Exploring Majors** options

1 or more **Required Core**

A typical 4-year liberal arts degree requires:

48 credit hours of UNIV CORE

48 - 60 credit hours of MAJOR FIELD

12-24 credit hours of MINOR FIELD or ELECTIVES

For a total of 120 credit hours (minimum)
approximately 15 hours/semester (4 years)

Note: Professional programs with secondary accreditation and technical expertise have different requirements

Required Core – Classes that everyone takes:

Old Testament Survey – BBL 1013

New Testament Survey – BBL 1023

Gateway Seminar in Christian Scholarship – COR 1002

English I: Composition – EGL 1013

English II: Literary Analysis & Research – EGL 1023

Integrated Humanities I – HST 2013

Integrated Humanities II – HST 2023

Essentials of Evangelical Theology – BBL 2013

Essentials of Christian Formation – BBL 2022

Elective Core – Major Dependent

Proceed with Caution:

Whole Person Wellness Class

6 credits of Natural Science options (one class must have a lab)

Mathematics

Arts and Humanities option(s)

Social and Behavioral Sciences option(s)

Intercultural Engagement



Sample EXPLORING MAJORS classes: *Some courses are FALL or SPRING only*

Art as a Vocation – ART 1101

Computer Graphics – ART 1123

Intro to Film – ART 1313

Intro to Photography – ART 1413

Principles of Financial Accounting – ATG 2173

Fundamentals of Cell Biology – BIO 1013 and BIO 1011 (lab)

Plant & Animal Diversity – BIO 1143 and BIO 1141 (lab)

Intro to Business – BUS 1003

Business Communications – BUS 1123

General Chemistry I – CHM 1123 and CHM 1121 (lab)

Construction Techniques – CM 1112

Intro to Construction Management – CM 1212

Object Oriented Programming – CS 1233

Introduction to Computer Science, Cybersecurity,

Game Design, and Artificial Intelligence – CS 1382

Principles of Microeconomics – ECN 2113

Seminar in Education – ED 1111

Learning Theories & Dev. Psychology – ED 2143

Intro to English Studies – EGL 1222

Intro to Creative Writing – EGL 2273

Intro to Engineering – EN 1112

Tools & Methods for Innovation – ENT 2103

Family Science & Self – FAM 2143

US History to 1865 – HST 2113

Intercultural Communication – ICS 2113

Wellness for Life – KIN 1002

First Aid, Safety & CPR – KIN 2102

Care of Athletic Injuries – KIN 2123

Elementary Spanish I – LS 1113

Principles of Management – MGT 2173

Principles of Marketing – MKT 2143

Calculus I – MTH 1163

Music & Theatre as Vocation – MUS 1401

Music Ensembles or private lessons in voice or piano

Concepts in Community Health & Wellness – NUR 1022

Overview of Professional Nursing – NUR 2113

Outdoor Living Skills – OLM 2383

Introduction to Criminal Justice – CRJ 2013

American Government & Politics – POL 1013

Intro to Psychology – PSY 1013

Orientation to Psychology – PSY 1101

Intro to Philosophy – PHL 2103

Ethics – PHL 2423

Theatre Workshop – THE 1110/1112

Fundamentals of Acting – THE 2113

Mapping things out

Planning your first steps

Review the **Advising Planner** and **choose courses** to take to help you explore one or more majors next semester. **What classes do you want to take?**

Review the **Course Schedule** (aka: Racing Form). Look over the **2000 - 4000 level courses** from the majors you're considering. **Which classes would you like to visit next semester?**

Your course selections:



Undeclared students will be expected to meet with someone from the Career Development office during their first semester for counsel and possible assessments to facilitate the exploration process. **Who else will you contact to help you with your decision-making process?** (A list of JBU contact information is in the next section)

- Advisors within considered majors
- General Academic Advisor
- Students within the majors
- Professionals in the workforce
- Clergy member
- Family
- Friends
- Counselor
- Mentor

Exploring your options will take time, effort and initiative on your part. What are some things that could hinder you from this process? How might you overcome them?



What other steps will you take?

- Prayer and/or quiet retreat
- Majors and career fairs
- Interest inventories & assessments
- Internet research
- Visit a library
- Job shadowing/volunteering
- Other:

Think about this...**you won't know if you like something until you try it.** (Example: reading a menu vs. taste testing) And the earlier you begin the **exploration process**, the sooner you'll be able to discover your specific direction. It's actually not a good idea to spend time and money taking classes you don't like in order to "get them out of the way." Doing so means you're not making progress discovering what you want to do and you run the risk of falling behind for the various majors because of missed pre-requisites – which could mean added semesters to graduate. So make the most of your opportunity at JBU and **enjoy exploring your options!**



“Don’t **panic**. God has
a **plan** for you and
he’ll put you where he
needs you if you put
him **first**.”

Hannah Benninghoven

Family & Human Services Major
Intercultural Studies Minor
Theatre Minor

Exploring Beginning the journey

Career Development Center

JBU's career development department would like to come alongside you in helping you discern and discover a major! Hopefully you have completed the planning steps in this Guidebook and are ready to start your journey.

We offer **major and career assessments** and **coaching conversations** that can help you explore and narrow down major and career options. **Assessment tools** can provide helpful information to **identify skills, interest, and values** and how these relate to specific majors.

Make an appointment



You will have an initial appointment to talk through your goals and learn about the (major & career) assessment. In the 2nd appointment, we will walk you through your assessment results.

Drop by

Visit the Career Development office in Walker Student Center (#145 in the Student Dev. office) to set up an appointment.

Online

jbu.joinhandshake.com

1. Create your profile
2. Click on 'career center'
3. Select 'appointments'
4. Follow prompts to connect with Mrs. Eve Jagger or Mrs. Rebekah Brown.

Email us

cdc@jbu.edu

Let us know you are undeclared or exploring options for a new major and ready to meet with us.

Exploring Information

JBU Majors

www.jbu.edu/majors

Explore every major at JBU from here. Watch videos and find information about career options, professors, alumni, course requirements and more.

Exploring Majors

eaglenet.jbu.edu/external/pages/major-exploration-undeclared-advising

Here's where you'll find updated copies of this guidebook, as well as the current Advising Planner, and other resources for navigating the process of exploring, advising, registration, and finalizing your decisions.

JBU Undergraduate Catalog

catalog.jbu.edu/index.php

This is where you find the policies and guidelines to help you plan your educational curriculum. Program requirements, academic policies and course descriptions are included. Be sure to check the Academic Programs and the Academic 4-Year Plans links from the left menu, read through the course descriptions for required classes, and make note of first-year major-specific courses for the majors you're interested in exploring.



Scan Here

to learn more about
exploring majors!

Course Schedules

www.jbu.edu/registrar/course-schedules/

See the classes being offered for each semester. You can explore options for classes to take during the upcoming semester, as well as explore current courses you might be interested in visiting. Check out the Advanced Search options.

Career Development

<https://eaglenet.jbu.edu/external/pages/career-development-explore-career-and-calling>

Besides administering career assessments and providing coaching about majors and career options, Career Development offers students help with developing a professional plan, getting prepared for the job search process, learning about graduate schools and so much more. Check out their site and get connected early.

EagleNet's VIEW A NEW PROGRAM

option in Academic Planning Self-Services Use this option, found on your MY PROGRESS page, to see what the requirements are for different majors. If the Registrar's Office has given you credit for any courses, they will be marked as complete on this list. Courses are hyperlinked to the catalog so you can read the course descriptions and see when they are offered.

International Programs

www.jbu.edu/academics/on-campus-undergraduate/study-abroad/

It's never too early to think about studying abroad. JBU has many options for taking classes overseas during the summer or for a whole semester abroad. Many upper-level and elective core classes can be taken without pre-requisites so knowing what's available can help you decide if you want to take Essentials of Evangelical Theology or an Arts and Humanities elective in Siloam Springs or in Ireland.

Accelerated Master's Program

www.jbu.edu/academics/accelerated-masters-program/

The Accelerated Master's Program allows you to get started on your graduate degree while you're working on your undergraduate degree. While earning your bachelor's degree at JBU, you can take graduate courses which can count for both graduate and undergraduate hours at the same time. A maximum of 12 graduate hours count as elective credit toward your bachelor's degree. That means you'll spend less time and money earning a master's degree by participating in the Accelerated Master's Program.



Exploring Talk to the locals

General Academic Advisor

Deborah Raiees-Dana
Email: draiees-dana@jbu.edu
Phone: 479-524-7217
Location: LRC 148C, in Student Support Services

Counseling Center

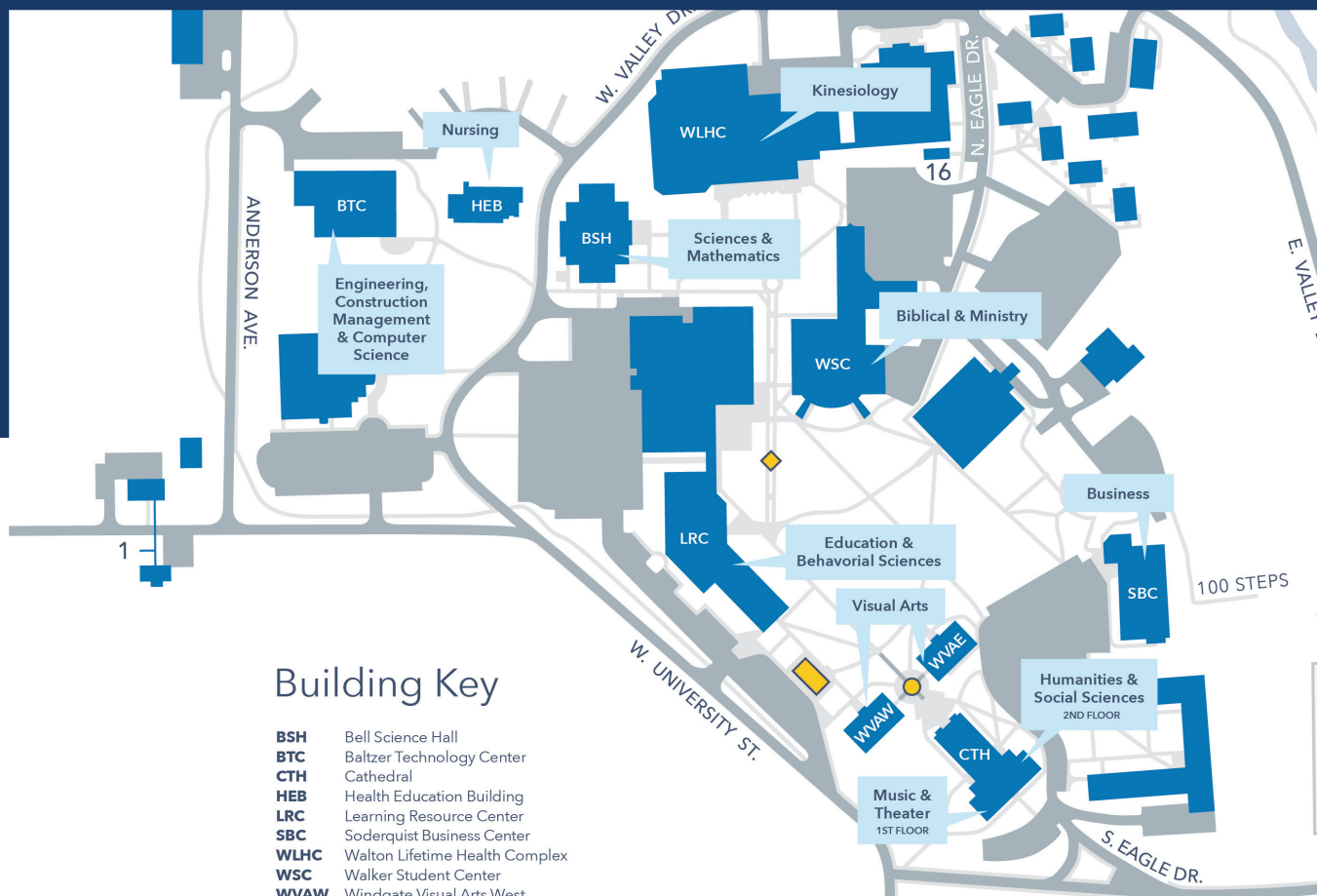
Abby Suitt, Director
Website: www.jbu.edu/student-services/student-counseling-center/
Email: StudentCounselingCenter@jbu.edu
Phone: 479-524-7251

Career Development Center

Eve Jagger, Director
Email: cdc@jbu.edu
Website: eaglenet.jbu.edu/external/pages/career-development-center-home
Location: Walker Student Center, first floor in the Student Development area

International Office

Melissa Stevenson
Email: mstevenson@jbu.edu
Location: Walker Student Center, first floor





Connect with your fellow students

Join an intramural team
Take on a leadership role
Join a student club

Plan to communicate with professors from the different majors you're interested in exploring. Be sure to ask questions to help you determine if their major will support your values and vision.

Suggested questions

Why do students typically choose this major?

What are the typical challenges students have with this major?

How much flexibility does this major have?

How many courses have required labs and/or additional fees?

Are there internships or capstone projects required for this major?

Are there scholarships available for students in this major?

What kind of jobs do students with this major typically get after graduation?

Is graduate school or other advanced study usually required for employment with this major?

Does this major require a minor, foreign language or concentration?

Are there specific courses you would recommend I visit to help me get a feel for the major?

Are there any specific entry-level courses I need to take right away if I decide on this major?

Are there study abroad options with this major?

Exploring Talk to the locals



Department contacts

College of Bible, Humanities & Arts Dr. Jake Stratman, Dean: JStratman@jbu.edu

Bible & Ministry Majors

Biblical & Theological Studies: Diane Swysgood DSwysgood@jbu.edu
Christian Ministry & Formation: Diane Swysgood DSwysgood@jbu.edu
Humanitarian and Disaster Relief: Dr. Greg Robinson GRobinson@jbu.edu
Intercultural Studies: Diane Swysgood DSwysgood@jbu.edu
Outdoor Leadership: Dr. Greg Robinson GRobinson@jbu.edu
Administrative Assistant: Diane Swysgood DSwysgood@jbu.edu, 479-524-7334

Humanities Majors

English: Dr. Jonathan Himes JHimes@jbu.edu
English Education: Mrs. Hollie Gumm HGumm@jbu.edu
Social Studies Education: Mrs. Hollie Gumm HGumm@jbu.edu
History: Dr. Robert Moore RMoore@jbu.edu
Philosophy: Dr. Jake Stratman JStratman@jbu.edu
Spanish: Dr. Ivan Iglesias Ilglesias@jbu.edu
Administrative Assistant: Annie Shinkle AShinkle@jbu.edu, 479-524-7271

Music Majors

Integrated Music Studies: Mrs. Liesl Dromi LDromi@jbu.edu
Music – General: organ, piano or voice: Mrs. Liesl Dromi LDromi@jbu.edu
Music Education: Ms. Lisa Auten LAuten@jbu.edu
Administrative Assistant: Annette Funk AFunk@jbu.edu 479-524-7442

Visual Arts Majors

Art & Illustration: Ms. Eve Nam Oh EOh@jbu.edu
Film: Mr. Steve Snediker SSnediker@jbu.edu
Graphic Design: Mr. Paul Bulgin PBulgin@jbu.edu
Photography: Mr. Kyle Agee KAgee@jbu.edu
Administrative Assistant: April Shirley AShirley@jbu.edu, 479-238-8561

College of Business Dr. Brad Gatlin, Dean: BGatlin@jbu.edu

Business Majors

Accounting	General Business
Data Analytics	International Business
Economics	Integrated Marketing Communications
Entrepreneurship & Innovation	Management
Finance	Marketing

Contact: Dr. Brad Gatlin BGatlin@jbu.edu
Administrative Specialist: Brittany Ladner BLadner@jbu.edu, 479-524-7431

Construction Management Major

Contact: Mr. Rick Faust RFaust@jbu.edu
Administrative Assistant: Layna Vann LVann@jbu.edu, 479-524-7377

College of Education, Social & Behavioral Sciences Dr. Emily Moore, Dean: EMoore@jbu.edu

Education Majors

Chemistry Education
Computer Science Education
Education Studies
Elementary Education
Secondary Education – various disciplines
Contact: Mrs. Hollie Gumm HGumm@jbu.edu
Administrative Assistant: Michelle Sumner MSumner@jbu.edu, 479-524-7449

Social & Behavioral Science Majors

Criminal Justice: Dr. Miguel Rivera MRivera@jbu.edu
Family & Human Services: Meaghan Ellenburg MEllenburg@jbu.edu
Political Science: Dr. Daniel Bennett DBennett@jbu.edu
Psychology: Dr. Christopher Dinwiddie CDinwiddie@jbu.edu
Administrative Assistant: Michelle Sumner MSumner@jbu.edu, 479-524-7449

Pre-Law Program Contact: Dr. Miguel Rivera MRivera@jbu.edu

College of STEM & Health Professions Dr. Kenneth Hahn, Dean: KHahn@jbu.edu

Computer Science Majors

Artificial Intelligence: Dr. Justus Selwyn JSelwyn@jbu.edu
Computer Science: Dr. Justus Selwyn JSelwyn@jbu.edu
Computer Science Education: Dr. Justus Selwyn JSelwyn@jbu.edu
Cybersecurity: Mr. Jonathan Newton JNewton@jbu.edu
Game Design: Dr. Justus Selwyn JSelwyn@jbu.edu
Administrative Assistant: Heidi Smith HSmith@jbu.edu, 479-524-1652

Engineering Majors

Electrical Engineering
Mechanical Engineering
Robotics & Mechatronics Engineering
Contact: Dr. John Lee JLee@jbu.edu
Administrative Assistant: Heidi Smith HSmith@jbu.edu, 479-524-1652

Kinesiology Major Contact: Dr. Suzanna Guizar SGuizar@jbu.edu, 479-524-7312

Natural Science Majors

Biochemistry: Dr. Susan Newton SNewton@jbu.edu
Biology: Dr. Tim Wakefield TWakefie@jbu.edu
Chemistry: Dr. Susan Newton SNewton@jbu.edu
Chemistry Education: Dr. Susan Newton SNewton@jbu.edu
Mathematics: Dr. Frank Blume FBlume@jbu.edu
Mathematics Education: Dr. Hollie Gumm HGumm@jbu.edu
Administrative Assistant: Laura Klenda LKlenda@jbu.edu, 479-524-7377

Nursing Major Contact: Mrs. Natasha Trotter NTrotter@jbu.edu
Administrative Assistant: Barbara Rivera BRivera@jbu.edu, 479-524-1646

Pre-Health Professions Program Contact: Dr. Tim Wakefield TWakefie@jbu.edu

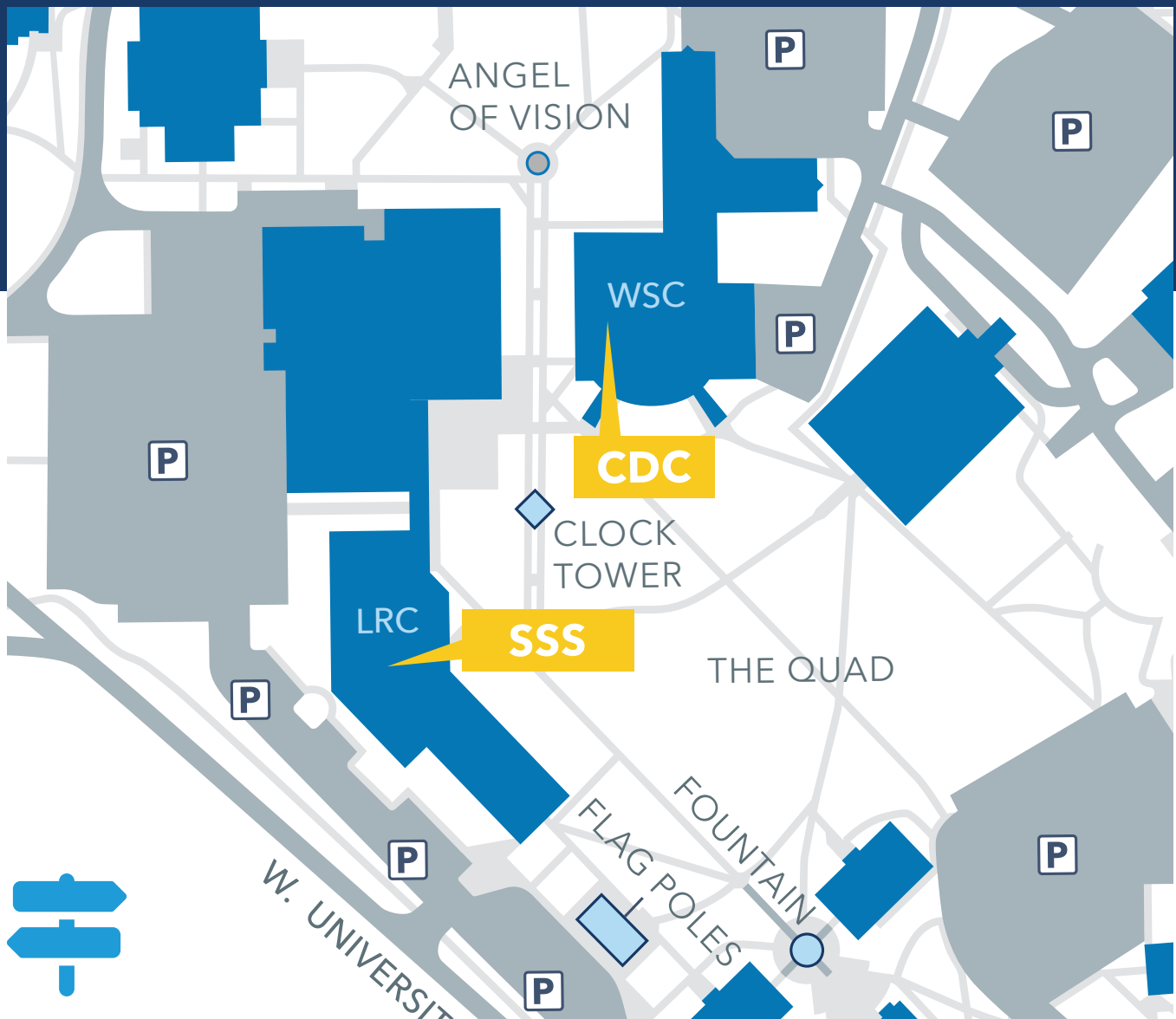
The provided contact
details were up to date
as of March 2026.



Scan Here
For updated Department
Contacts information

Exploring

Visit the local sites



Attend majors & career fairs

The admissions office puts on Majors Fairs during JBU visit days. Undeclared majors are invited to join prospective students to talk one-on-one with representatives from the different majors on campus. The Career Development Center holds career fairs throughout the year. This is a good opportunity to talk with prospective employers as you explore career options without the stress of an interview. See what employers are looking for and ask questions about expectations and job duties.

Sit in on upper level classes

It is often hard to get an idea of what classes are like from a written description, and introductory level courses don't always give the full flavor of a field of discipline. Visiting upper level courses exposes you to the types of in-depth material you would be studying, while allowing you to experience the classroom dynamics that would support your learning. You don't have to pay tuition or buy the book to sit in on a class either! Just review the course schedule for classes that you're interested in and then contact the professor to plan the best time to visit.

Visit the Career Development Center & your academic advisor

We're here to help you in your exploration process. The Career Development Center (CDC) can help you sort through which majors and careers might be a best fit for you. Your advisor can help you plan your class schedule to ensure you're able to explore and still stay on track to graduate in a timely manner. The map on the adjacent page shows the location of both the CDC office and your advisor's office in Student Support Services (SSS).



Discovery Congratulations!

Ready to declare? Here's what to do:

Fill out the Change of Major form, which can be found here at
www.jbu.edu/registrar/forms

Be sure to choose CHANGE not ADD major

Change of Major/Minor Request

Student Name

Student ID

Intended Graduation Date



Type of Change

☐ Add Major(s)

☒ Change Major(s)

☐ Remove Major(s)

Check here to
declare a major

☐ Add Minor(s)

☐ Change Minor(s)

☐ Remove Minor(s)

Major(s) I want to end

Enter
UNDECLARED
here

Major(s) I want to begin

Emphasis/Concentration (Traditional Undergraduate Only)

CLOSE

Submit

Questions or Problems?

Contact the Registrar's Office

Email: Registrar@jbu.edu

Phone: 479-524-7158

The Registrar's Office is in the Chapman Building, around the corner from the cafeteria.

International Students

If you are an international student you will also need to contact Seth Sears and let him know your intended new major.

Email: SSears@jbu.edu

Phone: 479-524-7236

Seth's office is located in the International Office in the Walker Student Center.



Notes

Notes

“Our **creator** knows our **passions, desires, and purpose** can only be fulfilled in **serving** Him, so practicing prayer and surrender opens our hearts and ears to hear His **calling** for our lives.”

Brennen Williams

Humanitarian and Disaster Relief Major
Construction Management Minor
Class of 2026



The future you starts at JBU.

www.jbu.edu jbuinfo@jbu.edu

JBU does not unlawfully discriminate based on race, color, national or ethnic origin, sex, age, disability, marital status, military status, or age in the administration of its educational policies, admissions, financial aid, employment, educational programs, or activities.