Admission to SPU Majors

Most of SPU's 71 majors are “open,” which means they are available to any student who is in good academic standing (minimum 2.0 GPA). If you list an open major as your first-choice major when you apply to SPU, you will simultaneously be admitted to that major when you are admitted to the University.

A small number of majors have limited capacity, and therefore require a competitive admission process. Additionally, admission to a few of SPU’s art- and design-related majors depends on the quality of the student’s work as demonstrated by submission of a portfolio.

Open Majors

- Apparel Design (BA)
- Apparel Merchandising (BA)
- Applied Human Biology (BS)
- Applied Mathematics (BS)
- Art History and Visual Studies (BA)
- Asian Studies (BA)
- Biochemistry (BS)
- Biology (BA and BS)
- Cellular and Molecular Biology (BS)
- Chemistry (BA and BS)
- Christian Theology (BA)
- Classics (BA)
- Communication Studies (BA)
- Communication: Journalism Track (BA)
- Computer Engineering (BS)
- Computer Science (BA and BS)
- Costume Design and Production (BA)
- Criminal Justice (BA)
- Ecology (BS)
- Electrical Engineering (BS)
- English (BA)
- Exercise Science (BS)
- Family & Consumer Science - Secondary Educ. (BA)
- Film Studies (BA)
- Food & Nutritional Sciences (BS)
- French & Francophone Studies (BA)
- General Engineering (BS)
- Health and Fitness Education (BA)
- History (BA)
- Human Development & Family Studies (BA)
- Information Systems (BS)
- Integrated Studies (for Elementary Teachers) (BA)
- Interior Merchandising (BA)
- Journalism (BA) (see Communication)
- Life Science (BA)
- Linguistics and Cultural Studies (BA)
- Mathematics (BA and BS)
- Mechanical Engineering (BS)
- Music Education (BA)
- Music (BA)
- Philosophy (BA)
- Physical Sciences: 3/2 Program (BA)
- Physics (BS)
- Physiology (BS)
- Political Science (BA)
- Politics, Philosophy & Economics (BA)
- Psychology (BA and BS)
- Social Justice & Cultural Studies (BA)
- Sociology (BA)
- Spanish Studies (BA)
- Special Education (BA)
- Theatre (BA)
- Visual Arts (BA)
Majors Requiring a Portfolio

Three majors require presentation of a portfolio as part of the competitive admission process:

Art (BA)
Interior Design (BA) [Note that Interior Merchandising does not require a portfolio]
Visual Communication (BA)

The Art Department reviews portfolios for the Art major and Visual Communication major in early fall quarter (second Tuesday of September), early winter quarter (fourth Tuesday of January), and early spring quarter (third Tuesday of April). Portfolio guidelines are in the Undergraduate Catalog. Students entering SPU as juniors should apply for the Art major during their first quarter at SPU; junior admits should apply for the Visual Communication major by June 15th prior to their first autumn quarter at SPU.

The Family and Consumer Sciences Department reviews Interior Design portfolios once a year. The deadline for submission is the first Friday of spring quarter in early April. View portfolio guidelines here (pdf). Students will prepare their application (written and portfolio) in one specific course – FCS 2204 – offered each year in winter quarter.

Limited Enrollment Majors

Accounting (BA)**
Business Administration (BA)**
Economics (BA)**
General Studies (BA)
Global Development Studies (BA)
Honors Liberal Arts (BA)
Music Therapy (BA)
Nursing (BS)**
Nutrition and Dietetics (BS)
Student Designed Major
Visual Communication (BA)**

**Students who meet specific GPA and course prerequisite criteria may be eligible to be directly admitted to this major at the time of admission to the university. Eligibility for direct admission will be evaluated in the admission process based on the student’s GPA and completion of certain prerequisites.

Students who are not eligible for direct admission to one of these limited enrollment majors should apply for general admission to the university and will have the opportunity to apply to the major once prerequisites and GPA requirements have been satisfied.

Students who enter SPU with junior or senior standing should identify and enter their major within their first two quarters at SPU. Later decisions are possible, but may impact the student’s timely completion of a degree.