

## Falling in Love With Your Major

Isabella (0:00)

Hi Katie!

Katie (0:03)

Hi Isabella!

Isabella (0:05)

So we are in October.

Katie (00:07)

Yes!

Isabella (0:08)

Do you like Halloween? Are you a Halloween girl?

Katie (0:10)

I am a big Halloween person. What about you? No? No you're not?

Isabella (0:15)

It's like the season of scariest. Like I'm not a scary person, but I have a proposal for you today. Okay, I'm proposing that October is the new February.

Katie (0:23)

Okay, explain this to me.

Isabella (0:25)

Okay, so basically we are in the season of love right now, but in terms of majors. Not really like love and chocolates and Hallmark and hearts and stuff, but in the context of falling in love with your major and that's really what I want to focus on today because we are getting into the time that we're going to start finding our classes for next semester and it's really important to take self-reflection and really figure out if you, yourself, have fallen in love with your major. What do you think Katie?

Katie (0:54)

Yes, I totally agree, especially since it's around midterm times that we've been in school and on campus long enough to get a feel for our classes, so I think being able to reflect is a really good time right now for October.

Isabella (1:08)

Absolutely, so let's just jump right into it. Basically, I'm going to put everyone into two categories. If you've enjoyed your classes so far and if you haven't.

If you've enjoyed most of your classes, congratulations! You are killing it. You're on the right track. Keep working hard and keep getting to that degree.

Katie (1:26)

If you're not loving your classes, that is completely okay and completely normal with other students as well. If you're kind of in the middle with your classes, really reflect on which classes you enjoy and which classes you don't and think about if you could add anything as a minor to really branch out with your interests in major and minor categories.

Isabella (1:45)

Yeah, absolutely.

If you don't like your true major specific classes but there's maybe an extracurricular or an elective that you're taking that you really have loved, maybe think about adding that as a minor or even completely flipping your major if you could see yourself working in that field long term.

Katie (2:06)

A really good tip too is to go talk to your professors about your classes, especially the classes that you do enjoy. Talk to them a little bit more about other classes that you could take within that college or within that major itself as well as other options that you could do to expand on your interests with these certain topics as well.

Isabella (2:21)

Absolutely. If there are just a few classes that maybe you like but you're super struggling in them, maybe it's a certain class or a certain subject, there are so many resources here at the University of Alabama to help with that. Katie, would you like to tell them more about it?

Katie(2:36)

Yes. We offer tutoring services in Russell Hall, second floor. This could account for chemistry majors. They have some for finance, operations management.

For my business people, they have it for English 101 in those classes. It'll all be on the UA website for Capstone Center of Student Success where you could find more

opportunities within the tutoring possibilities of Russell Hall. This is very helpful because you're getting tutored from students that have taken that class previously. They're able to tell you what tips helped them and go about helping study for a test, understanding your homework, and everything like that as well.

Isabella (3:18)

Absolutely. There are so many options just within the Learning Commons here at Russell. We have supplemental instruction, which is basically taught by an upperclassman who has received a satisfactory grade in that course. They oftentimes come and sit in during the class and then just kind of go over questions or a basic overview during the supplemental instruction. It's kind of like a second smaller class.

There's also group tutoring where you can do a tutoring session in a group as well as one-on-one tutoring if you feel like you may need it in certain courses. I want to stress my most important takeaway from the beginning part of this episode. That is please, please, please talk to your advisor. If you think that you want to drop your major and switch, if you think you want to add a minor, if you want to talk about ways to improve your study habits or anything like that, please talk to your advisor. These are people who have talked to so many students, know the best ways to work through some of these difficulties, as well as have your best intentions at heart. So please talk to your advisors.

Katie (4:25)

Yes, we cannot stress that enough. And if your advisor can't directly help you with whatever questions you may ask, you could also talk to other advisors within your college as well that may specify within the major or minor or interest that you're thinking of. I know for me, my advisor within the business school specifically studied marketing when she was in college, and I'm a marketing major, by the way, so it's really easy to talk to her about my marketing classes here and being able to compare and contrast since she's been in that field before. So yes, really talk to your advisors, really get their advice, their input, because they'll be the biggest help along the way.

Isabella (5:10)

Oh yeah, absolutely.

And my freshman year advisor, Ms. Angel, she is still such an amazing human and I can still see her helping everyone, so she still keeps in touch with me. Like advisors are truly some of the most amazing people here at UA, so really use them to your advantage. But I now want to change gears a little bit and talk about making a plan for next semester.

At this point, it's October. You may not be thinking about what classes you want to take next semester, but it's probably start time or it's probably time to start getting into that mindset. And it's super, super different than doing your schedule at Bama Bound. At least for me, it was. I don't know about you, Katie.

Katie (5:40)

Yes, I think a big misconception with a lot of first-year students on campus during their first semester is there's a miscommunication and a misunderstanding of how to pick your classes. A lot of people go talk to their advisor and they make a schedule and then they assume that their advisor is going to register them for all of their classes, but that's not really the case. Once you make your schedule with your advisor, that's now on you to know your specific registration time and date and then you go into your MyBama profile to 'Add or Drop classes' and that is where you register for your classes yourself. So keep that in mind. Look up on your MyBama registration dashboard when your specific registration time is and keep that in mind so that you can get your classes right away.

Isabella

So going right out of that, you will likely get an email with your registration time, but as Katie said, you can also find this through MyBama.

But once you get that time slot, put it in your calendar right away. You don't want to miss that time slot. You can also go ahead and go to Degree Works through MyBama. This gives you a way to look at all the requirements for your major or your minors and you even have the ability to make plans. So you can basically drag and drop each of your classes that's required as well as choose the electives that you want to take and make your plan throughout your entire time here at UA.

Katie (7:11)

Yes, Schedule Builder is a huge resource. Being able to craft your schedule, see what that looks like beforehand and then put it in your registration cart. Check out the day of your registration and all of your classes would be registered in the schedule that you were able to choose in Schedule Builder.

Isabella (7:26)

Yep, and with Schedule Builder, that's when you get to choose your specific teachers and instructors. So I would highly recommend talking to others who have taken the class before you, looking it up online, and just really ensuring that you're getting the professor that will work best to your abilities as well as checking out the UA map. You don't want to get two classes back to back completely on opposite sides of campus

because you're going to be late to one of them every day. So always make sure to check that UA map before planning out your schedule.

Katie (7:52)

Yes, and remember that winter classes are an option. To gain more advice through this, you could talk to your advisor, talk about which winter classes they would advise you on taking, but there are winter classes for those that want to catch up or redo a class. That is always an option offered.

Katie (8:08)

If you are not in love with your major, now is the time to reflect. Talk to your advisor, talk to your professors, talk to everyone on campus. Go talk to the Career Center. Go tell them your interests and they could help develop a major or minor or certain classes to take to engage your interests as well. Talk to all of the resources on campus. That's your biggest benefit for this semester.

Isabella (8:42)

Thank you so much for joining us today. We really hope that this episode has been beneficial and here is to the best of luck falling in love with your major. I'll see you next time, guys.

Katie (8:44)

Bye, guys.