

# University Exploration

University Exploration helps students evaluate Ohio State's more than 200 majors before making an official commitment. Through a series of assessments and engagement with professional academic advisors, students in University Exploration learn about their academic options while taking course work that keeps them on track for a timely graduation.

Exploration provides a starting place for both students who want to experience course work at the college level before committing to their major of interest and students with multiple areas of interest and abilities who do not want to limit their options.

Students interested in beginning their Ohio State career in University Exploration can choose from seven tracks. They can choose the general Exploration track if they would like to keep all of their academic options open or they can choose from one of six meta-majors (broad fields of study) if they prefer to narrow their focus when they apply. If students are interested in multiple meta-majors, Exploration advisors are prepared to help them find a way to overlap their interests.

## Exploration

Some students who have many interests and abilities are concerned with limiting their choices. Others may not have found one particular "thing" that excites them enough to study it for four years. Still others are uncertain about the relationship between majors and careers and want to sample the academic variety available at Ohio State before making a choice. The Exploration track helps these students fine-tune their interests while taking important core classes that ensure progress toward a degree.

## Health and Human Services Exploration

Students who are interested in the health professions and helping to improve lives but aren't sure which undergraduate major to choose should start in Health and Human Services Exploration. Students considering pre-med, pre-optometry, pre-dentistry and other health related areas will find this meta-major an effective starting place as they take pre-professional requisite courses and determine the undergraduate major that is their best route to their goals.

### Sample majors:

animal sciences; biology; chemistry; health sciences; human development and family studies; nursing; public health; Spanish

## Science, Technology and Environment Exploration

Students interested in comparing theoretical and applied sciences, exploring ways to make our environment and natural resources more sustainable, and in learning how humans interact with these fields will find Science, Technology and Environ-

ment Exploration to be an excellent choice. Students begin taking math and science courses appropriate for their interests and work with advisors to prioritize which courses should be taken for specific options within the STEM fields.

### Sample majors:

majors in the biological and physical sciences; engineering; entomology; environmental science; mathematics

## Management and Industry Exploration

For students interested in the broad field of business and the wide variety of careers within the industry, Management and Industry Exploration provides an opportunity to sample courses and determine if they prefer studying business from the corporate or consumer perspective. Advisors recommend majors and courses based on each student's individualized interests in the management and industry field.

### Sample majors

agribusiness; business; consumer family financial services; economics; public affairs; strategic communication

## Arts, Innovation and Design Exploration

For students looking for ways to incorporate creative expression into their course work or for those who enjoy design and having artistic control over their work, Arts, Innovation and Design Exploration is a great choice. This meta-major can help students discover how creativity manifests itself through a variety of majors and fields. Students are introduced to performance and production of various art forms as well as the theory, history and impact of art on society. This field is a great fit for students who want to create and for those who enjoy and value the impact of art and design.

### Sample majors:

arts management; architecture; dance; design; fashion and retail studies; music; studio art; theatre

## Education and Public Service Exploration

Students who enjoy teaching, training and helping others learn and those who see themselves in a career helping others and shaping future generations will find that Education and Public Service Exploration best helps them investigate their options. Advisors help students find majors that connect with education and teaching. These majors include Ohio State's undergraduate and graduate education licensure programs and degrees where education and training feature in the possible career outcomes, like public affairs or human resources.

**Sample majors:** community leadership extension education, early and middle childhood studies, public affairs

## For more information, check these websites:

University Exploration: [exploration.osu.edu](http://exploration.osu.edu)

Ohio State: [osu.edu](http://osu.edu)

Financial Aid: [sfa.osu.edu](http://sfa.osu.edu)

Admissions: [undergrad.osu.edu](http://undergrad.osu.edu)

Multicultural Center: [mcc.osu.edu](http://mcc.osu.edu)

First Year Experience: [fye.osu.edu](http://fye.osu.edu)

### Behavior, Culture and Context Exploration

Behavior, Culture and Context Exploration helps students understand human behavior from a variety of disciplines and lenses. Also referred to as the humanities and social sciences, students interested in behavior, culture and context are curious about their own individuality and role within society. They explore differences between individuals and groups and look at how history and literature record the world around us. Students pursuing these majors enjoy making connections between past and present, alike and different, and analyzing information through a variety of means.

**Sample majors:** anthropology, English, history, sport industry, strategic communication, psychology

### Sample Curriculum

Students in University Exploration focus primarily on general education course work, prerequisite courses for competitive majors, and courses to explore majors when they are appropriate and suggested by an academic advisor. Working closely with academic advisors, students maintain degree progress and stay on track for a timely graduation. Find sample curriculum for all meta-majors at [exploration.osu.edu/fields-of-study](http://exploration.osu.edu/fields-of-study).

### Academic Advising

Students in University Exploration are assigned an academic advisor trained in the basics of all undergraduate programs offered at Ohio State. The advisor helps students choose first-term classes, teaches the introductory University Survey class required of all Ohio State students, and is available for individualized appointments until the student chooses a major and transitions to their new academic advisor.

### Co-Curricular Opportunities

Ohio State offers many opportunities for students to learn and grow outside the classroom. These range from cooperative education and internships to study abroad programs and student organizations. University Exploration encourages students to take advantage of all of these experiences as they can enhance learning and provide advantages in the job market as well as help confirm their choice of a major.

### Honors and Scholars

The University Exploration Honors Program, EXP Honors, allows high-achieving students to pursue a rigorous academic curriculum while actively exploring majors. Through the development of a personalized and challenging academic program, EXP Honors students are prepared for a smooth transition into the honors program for their chosen major.

University Exploration Scholars students can participate in any of the Scholars Programs offered at Ohio State regardless of their areas of academic interest. Scholars Program students in University Exploration receive the benefits of being part of a Scholars community while engaging in active exploration of majors.

### Diversity Services

University Exploration Diversity Services helps students navigate networks to get connected to the people and places that will have the most benefit as they explore majors and get acquainted with Ohio State.

### Exploration Learning Community

The Exploration Learning Community connects students who are discovering academic and career aspirations. It also facilitates group experiences and opportunities for students to reflect on their goals at Ohio State and beyond. This program is for students who are undecided or students who know exactly what they want to do but are unsure of the best path. The program sponsors specific activities designed to introduce students to a variety of different majors and career options. Learning community highlights:

- Academic advising in the residence hall
- Opportunities to explore campus and Columbus with other new students
- Major and career decision resources (e.g. StrengthsQuest)
- Workshops on study skills and time management
- Activities designed to introduce students to a variety of different majors and career opportunities
- Connections to faculty and staff from many different areas

### Additional resources for undeclared students

University Exploration offers a series of **workshops designed to provide supplemental support** to students as they search for majors. Workshops also help students identify ways to make the most of their undergraduate degree.

The **senior bank program** is a directory of outstanding seniors who are available to talk to freshmen and sophomores about course work, internships and careers.

University Exploration offers an **early intervention program** designed to connect students to academic success resources in their first semester. Students will have the option of choosing a “success motivator” to assist them in their academic journey.

Working with assigned advisors and guest presenters, students begin receiving **career counseling** as they explore majors during their first term. As students progress in their major search, advisors refer them to career services resources throughout the university.

University Exploration also offers **self-assessment inventories** to assist students in determining the path for which they are best suited and offers a “What Can I Do With This Major” guide at [exploration.osu.edu/current-students/what-can-i-do-with-a-major-in](http://exploration.osu.edu/current-students/what-can-i-do-with-a-major-in).

**Revised May 2015.** Information subject to change. For the most up-to-date information on University Exploration, please visit [exploration.osu.edu](http://exploration.osu.edu).

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