Majors and Academic Advising

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Advising Commons

orientation

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY
— BOZEMAN · MONTANA —

Today's Presentation

- Review academic structure at MSU
- Discuss academic advising
- Discuss how parents and family members can support their students
- Answer your questions

Academics at MSU

Colleges, Majors, Minors, Certificates

MSU's Colleges & Programs

- Agriculture
- Arts & Architecture
- Jake Jabs College of Business & Entrepreneurship
- Education, Health & Human Development
- Norm Asbjorson College of Engineering

- Letters & Science
- Mark & Robyn Jones College of Nursing
- University Studies Program
- Honors College
- Gallatin College

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Bachelor's Degrees

Bachelor's of Science, Arts, or Fine Arts
- B.S. Nursing
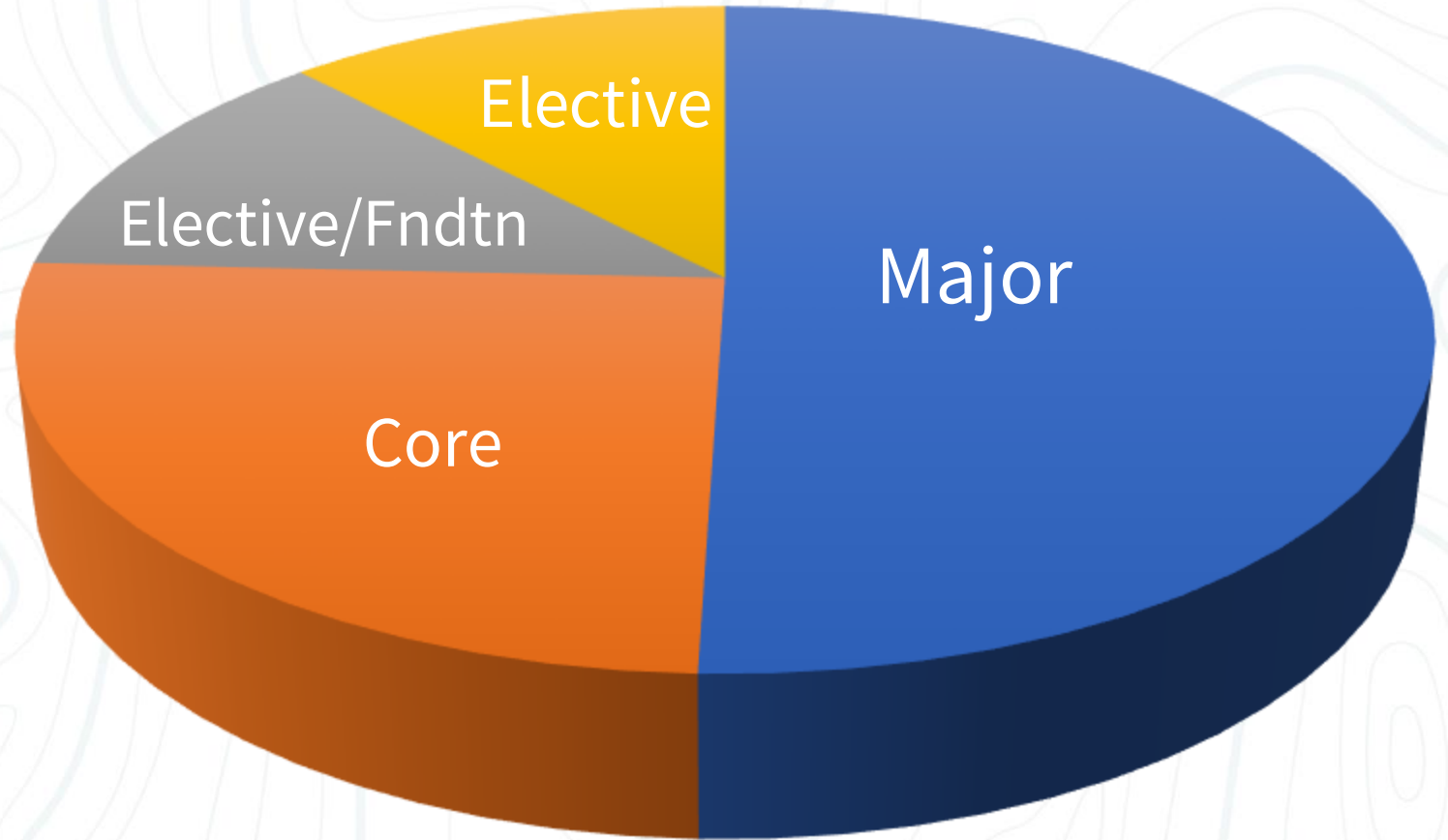- B.A. English, Writing Option
- B.F.A. Graphic Design

Degree Requirements

- 120-128 credits
- Complete Core Program
- 42 upper division credits
- Min. 2.0 GPA
- C- or better in all required classes
  - Some degrees require higher GPAs or grades

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Components of a Degree

- Major Requirements

- Core

- Elective

- Foundation

Elective

Elective/Fndtn

Major

Core

Minors

- 21-30 credits
- Not required
- Examples:
  - Global Health
  - Coaching
  - Water Resources

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Certificates

- 15-20 Credits
- Not required
- Typically, fewer prerequisites
- Examples:
  - Leadership
  - Entrepreneurship
  - Gerontology

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Academic Advising

How Advisors Work With Students

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Academic Advising at MSU

Is a collaborative process between students, faculty, and professional advisors designed to empower students to discover who they are as learners, where their academic interests lie, and how their University experience will shape their lives.

Advising Framework

- Individualized and Holistic

- Required

- Expects Student Engagement

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Academic Advising: Professional Advisors

- Educators
- Guides
- Networkers

- Most students start with a professional advisor
- Regular access – in advising centers & main department office
- Teach how to navigate MSU
- Discuss courses, provide information

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Academic Advising: Faculty Advisors

- Educators
- Mentors
- Networkers

- Often assigned after 1st or 2nd year
- Disciplinary experts
- Fulfill mentoring role
- Discuss research, internships, graduate school, career opportunities

Academic Advising: Pre-Professional Advisors

- Health Professions
- Pre-Law
- Pre-Veterinary

- Supplements major advising
- Graduate, professional school application consultation
- Mock interviews and personal statement critiques
- Prerequisite course review

How Does My Student Find Their Advisor

- Advisors will be listed in DegreeWorks and navMSU

- If advisor doesn't show, student can check with their home department

- Most advisors use navMSU to schedule advising appointments

Student Advising Responsibilities

- Engage in the advising process, prepare for meetings
- Adhere to policies and procedures
- Learn, follow degree & curricular requirements of major
- Proactively monitor progress to degree
- Follow up on advisor's recommendations

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Common Advising Questions

- How do I schedule an appointment?
- Where do I find my PIN?
- How do I get organized?
- Who do I contact with questions about my scholarship or financial aid?
- How do I change my major?
- How do I get help with a class?
- What minors go well with my major?

Advising Tools: DegreeWorks

- Degree audit software
- Used to log advising notes
- Advising plan templates
- Info on holds

College is complex. Make it simpler.

Smartphone Scheduling
Schedule advising appointments easily from your phone.

Notifications
Get automated notifications for everything from appointment reminders to priority registration.

Hold Alerts
Connect to the right office quickly to resolve holds.

Resource Finder
Whether you're looking for tutoring or scholarships, you'll be able to find the resources you need.

Study Buddies
Connect with students in your classes interested in studying together.

To-Dos
Avoid missing deadlines and keep up with important tasks to help you stay on track and on time to graduation.

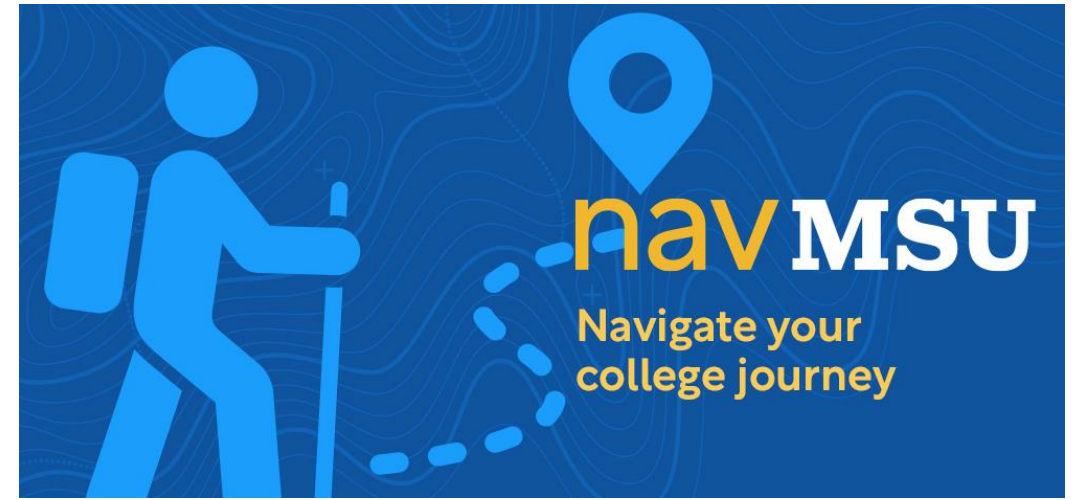**Events**
Get involved by getting notified about events happening at MSU.

Class Schedule
Have your schedule in the palm of your hand.

navMSU
Navigate your college journey

Advising Tools: navMSU

- Appointment scheduling
- Alerts, texting, email
- Campus Resources
- 'Study Buddies'

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CatCourse ⓘ Help ↦ Back to MyInfo

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8am		ⓘ LS-104 🔓 LIN 125 Face to Face Hines, Deborah A		ⓘ LS-104 🔓 LIN 125 Face to Face Hines, Deborah A	
10am	ⓘ ACT-129 🔓 CTGS1 NW COURT Face to Face		ⓘ ACT-129 🔓 CTGS1 NW COURT Face to Face		
11am					ⓘ STAT-2160 🔓

Advising Tools: CatCourse

Students enter courses & other criteria

Software generates possible schedules

Learn more Monday, 3:15 PM – 'Academics 2' Presentation

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Academic Advising

Parents and Family

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How We Work with Your Students and You

- Guide students as they take ownership of their experience
- Work with family as partners
- Adhere to FERPA regulations

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Academic Advising: Parents & Family

- Partners

- Listen to students
- Help them think through their own solutions
- Provide ideas
- Let students make and attend appointments by themselves

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What We Can Share

- General 'Catalog' Information
  - Dates, Deadlines
  - Policies, Procedures
- Resources
  - Academic
  - Nonacademic
- Contact information for the *student* to follow up

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What We Can't Share

- Grades, attendance
- GPA, academic standing
- Specifics of student's record
- Topics discussed in advising meetings

Advising Tips for You & Your Student

- Have student confirm course schedule and registration

- Make sure they know who their advisor is and how they can meet with them

- Offer support & encouragement when they stumble; ask them to talk through what they could do differently next time

- Normalize using resources

- Encourage exploration and engagement

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Supports & Resources You Can Recommend

- Academic Advisors
- Advising Tools Shared
- AYCSS
  - Success Coaches
  - Tutors
  - Career Coaches
  - Financial Education
  - Catalyst Mentors
- Disability, Re-entry, Veteran Services

- Renne Library
  - Tech checkouts
  - Research Assistance
  - Study rooms
- Learning Centers
  - Math, Writing, Chemistry, etc.
- Student Health
- Counseling Services
- Office of Student Engagement

Common Advising Questions – Parents & Family

- My student is bringing in college credit (AP, IB, dual enrollment). How will the credits count toward their major?

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Common Advising Questions – Parents & Family

- How does the Honors College work in relation to a student's major?

Common Advising Questions – Parents & Family

- What if my student doesn't like one of their classes?

- When can my student declare a second major or minor?

Common Advising Questions – Parents & Family

- What if my student wants to change their major?

- How do you help students who don't know what they want to study?

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Thank You!

Questions After Today?

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