



orientation

**MONTANA
STATE UNIVERSITY**

— BOZEMAN · MONTANA —

University Studies

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Today's Presentation

- Learn about **University Studies Department**
- Discuss what it means to be an 'exploring' or 'undecided' student
- Understand how to go from undecided to declared
- Sample schedules
- Learn how to contact us
- Questions

What is University Studies?

Program Overview



Academic Home for Exploring Students

- Team of Advisors and Educators
 - Personalized one-on-one advising
- Supplemental Advising for students in declared majors
- Teach Courses
 - US101US – First Year Seminar
 - COMX111US – Intro to Public Speaking
 - US102 – Career Connections (offered in spring semester)
- Coordinate National Student Exchange
- Pre-Med and Pre-Law Advising



University Studies

Starting in University Studies at MSU is a Smart Choice





Explore the Best Academic Fit

- Normal to be Undecided when starting college
 - Over 50% of MSU students change their major at least once before graduation
- Identify Classes and Experiences
 - Strengths
 - Interests
 - Values
 - Goals
- Introduce New Courses and Majors your student might not have considered





Who are University Studies Students?

- Your student is not alone
 - University Studies students make up 10-15% of incoming students
- Range of interests and abilities, inside and outside classroom
- Explore options to make informed decisions
- Typically declare in second or third semester

Advising

How does it work in University Studies?





Advising – How does it work?

- Meet a minimum of once a semester
 - Some students require minimal guidance and help
 - Others prefer to meet more frequently
- Your student will be asked to think about
 - Strengths
 - Interests
 - Goals
 - Values
- Share information and make recommendations
- Every decision will be your student's



Undecided to Declared

How does it work?





Choosing a Major is a Process

- Reflect
 - Think about subjects they enjoy and do well in
 - Complete personal interest surveys
 - Write out goals
 - Create plans to achieve goals
- Actively Explore
 - Use DegreeWorks to learn about MSU majors
 - Try new courses
 - Get involved: work, volunteer, join clubs
 - Research careers of interest
 - Attend major exploration workshops/events
- Review with Advisor to make informed decisions



Ways to think about majors

Does the major lead to a professional certification?

If not,

Does it track into a career?

Does it focus on areas of individual interests?

There is no right or wrong answer... ultimately, we want students to enjoy and care about what they are studying.



University Studies

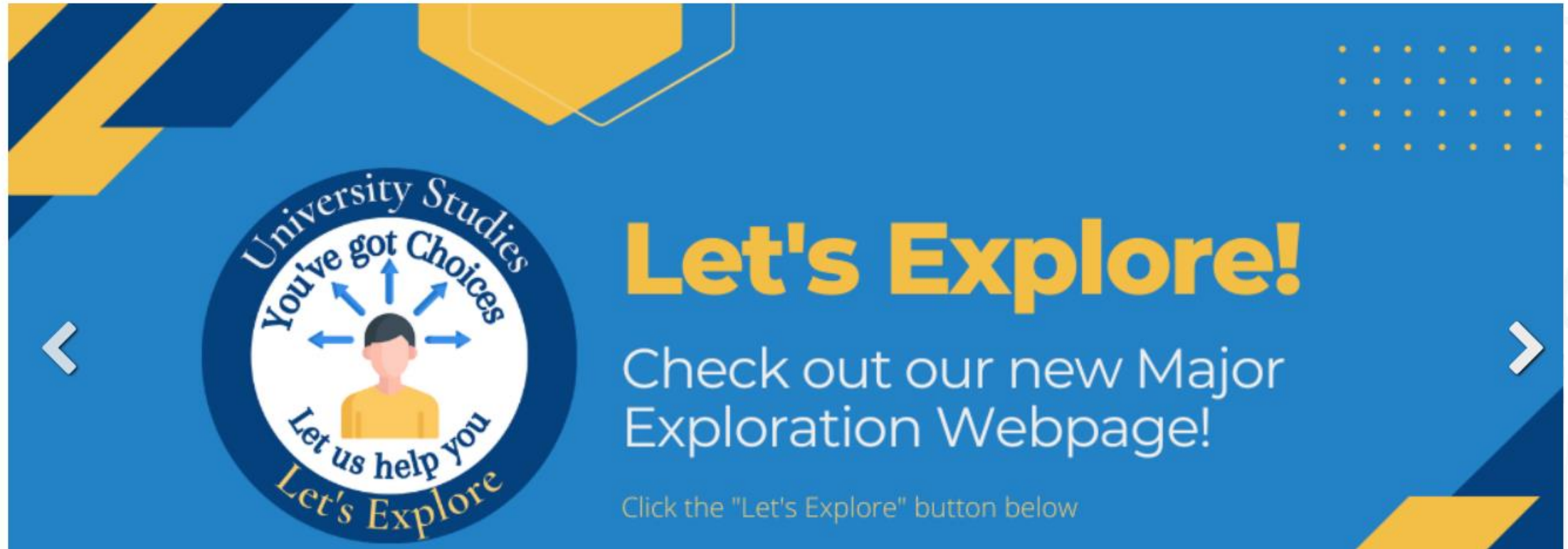
[Academic Advising Center](#)

[First Year Seminar](#)

[Intro to Public Speaking](#)

[National Student Exchange](#)


[About Us](#)



Let's Explore!

Check out our new Major Exploration Webpage!

Click the "Let's Explore" button below



University Studies
You've got Choices
Let us help you
Let's Explore



Attend Major
Madness to
explore possible
majors

10/16/24

MAJOR MADNESS

JUMP START YOUR MAJOR EXPLORATION

Not sure if you love your major?
Interested in exploring other possibilities?

Learn about MSU's majors and minors from
current MSU students



RAFFLE WITH AWESOME PRIZES,
SNACKS, MUSIC, & FUN!



Sample Schedules



Explore majors related to Environment

- COMX111US – Public Speaking (Core)
- M161Q – Survey of Calculus (Major and Core)
- BIOB170IN – Principles of Biological Diversity (Major & Core)
- MUSI203IA – American Popular Music (Core)
- BIOE103CS – Environmental Science & Society (Major & Core)
or LS103 – Gateway to Sustainability Studies (Elective)



Explore majors that Help Others

- HLD 121US Leadership Foundations (Core)
- M105Q – Contemporary Math (Major & Core)
- HDFS101IS – Lifespan Development (Major & Core)
- ANTY101D – Anthropology & the Human Experience (Core)
- BIOM103IN – Microbes in the Environment (Core)
or CHTH205 – Drugs & Society (Major or Elective)



What is Pre-University Studies?

Program Overview



Academic Home for Students Needing Extra Support

- Personalized one-on-one advising
- Foundational coursework
- Small class sizes
- Extra faculty support
- Tracking toward chosen major



Foundational (Zero-Level) Courses


- DO

- Build foundational knowledge
- Count towards full-time status and financial aid
- Meet in smaller sections
- Feature helpful faculty

- DO NOT

- Factor into GPA
- Earn college credit
- Count toward graduation
- Count toward Deans' or President Lists





US 101US- First Year Seminar

- Fulfills the US Core Requirement
- Helps your student make the transition from High School to College
- Discussion-based course; small class sizes
 - Provides students a space where they are the focus!
- Your student will:
 - Learn the expectations of college-level academic work
 - Explore new experiences, ideas, and challenges
 - Interact with their peers
 - Be guided by experienced faculty

A close-up photograph of a person's hands writing in a notebook. The person is using a black pen with a wooden barrel. The notebook is open, and the page has some faint, illegible handwriting. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be a person's face and shoulders, suggesting a classroom or study environment.

US 103 – Learning Strategies

- Effective Reading Study Skills
- Note Taking
- Test Preparation
- Time Management
- Organization
- Preventing Procrastination
- Improving Motivation
- Reducing Anxiety

US 102 – Career Connections

- Explore majors and careers
- Complete self-assessments
- Explore learning styles
- Learn about campus and community resources



National Student Exchange (NSE)

Experience Life from a Different Perspective

- NSE provides collegiate study away opportunities to undergraduate students at member colleges and universities in the United States, Canada, Guam, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands.
- Exchange in fall, spring or entire academic year.
- Eligibility: 2.5 minimum GPA & at least 24 completed credits by the time of exchange.
- Popular destinations for MSU students: Hawaii, Alaska, California, Georgia, US Virgin Islands.



Advising Availability

- Open Mon-Fri 8:00am-5:00pm
- Walk-in for quick questions
- Appointments for longer conversations
- 130 Gaines Hall
- (406) 994-3532
- advising@montana.edu



Questions?

