

Exploratory Studies

Department of Exploratory Studies

Who We Are

Exploratory Studies is a program that helps students discover the major that best reflects their interests and ambitions. Students are given the space and time to explore, balanced with professional guidance intended to encourage students' proactive career research and reflection. Some key features of our program include:

- Each student is assigned an experienced academic advisor who is familiar with all Purdue schools and degree programs. Our advisor to student ratio is kept at 1:150 so that advisors have time to really get to know their advisees!
- A unique course schedule is created for students specifically tailored to their interests and ambitions. We strive for a balance of University Core requirements and available major courses.
- Exploring students take our advisor-taught EDPS 10500, Academic and Career Planning, course in the Fall. This is a full semester, 3-credit course that allows students to "try on" and evaluate many majors and careers before having to commit to one.
- Students can remain in Exploratory Studies for up to four semesters (two Fall-Spring school years) - but can declare their major any time during that period!

Our vision for Exploratory Studies to "be an exemplary advising program in the nation for exploratory students" has remained unchanged over the program's 25-year history. The program is successful in fulfilling its mission "to assist and empower students" and is recognized by many as a model program for how to successfully support undecided students through their journey.

Our History

In April 1995, the Purdue University Senate approved a three-year pilot program for beginning, exploratory, undecided freshmen students. This pilot, called the Undergraduate Studies Program (USP), was modeled after a program at The Pennsylvania State University. In August 1996, 212 students started with USP. In February 1999, the Purdue University Senate approved USP as a permanent program for entering freshmen students effective August 1999.

In June 2001, the University Division of the Office of the Dean of Students was merged with USP, adding reentry, readmit, and change of degree objective continuing students to the population served by USP.

In 2013, USP changed its name to Exploratory Studies.

Our Mission

The mission of Exploratory Studies at Purdue University is to assist and empower students to:

1. Develop and implement individualized plans for academic success and personal and career development
2. Make a smooth and academically sound transition from Exploratory Studies to their chosen degree-granting programs

Minimum Admission Requirements

- **Beginners:** Admissions High School Course Requirements
- **Transfers: (for undecided students)**
Purdue admits to individual majors Transfer students must meet Purdue's overall transfer criteria, as well as any major-specific requirements. Before you apply, check the closed programs page to confirm this major is open to transfer students. If it is, refer to the information below for major-specific transfer criteria.

Minimum GPA: 2.5

Additional Requirements: At the time of enrollment, CANNOT have more than 30 graded hours (or the equivalent quarter or trimester hours) of courses taken in college or 45 graded hours of college courses and concurrent/dual high school credit combined. Required to enroll in EDPS 10500 during first semester on campus.

CODO Requirements

To be eligible to CODO into Exploratory Studies, a student must have no more than 83 completed college credits.

Credit counted toward completed college credits includes: credit earned by exam, transfer credit, credit earned in P/NP courses, credit for courses in which students earned Fs, and credit for currently enrolled courses.

In addition:

- Students bringing into Exploratory Studies 77-83 completed college credits should be able to complete the requirements necessary to CODO to a degree-granting /program at the completion of one semester in Exploratory Studies.

NOTE: All students CODOing into Exploratory Studies and are still freshman (going into the 2nd term) **MUST** take [EDPS 10500 "Academic & Career Planning"](#) in Exploratory Studies.

[University Academic Advising Website](#)

Contact Information

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Pre-Program

Explorers, DS

Exploratory Studies allows you to explore your options and interests before you select a major, giving you plenty of guidance along the way.

You have up to four semesters to select the major that is right for you. We equip you to make informed decisions.

Explore your options ... Discover your strengths ... Decide

Exploratory Studies (website)

Prospective Students (website)

Exploratory Studies Major Change (CODO) Requirements

Degree Requirements

Required Courses: (10-12 credits)

- EDPS 10500 - Academic And Career Planning
- Intro to Major Course - Credit Hours: 1.00-3.00
- Major Course - Credit Hours: 3.00
- Major Course - Credit Hours: 3.00

Other Departmental/Program Course Requirements

- Oral Communication Selective - Credit Hours: 3.00
- Human Cultures Humanities Selective - Credit Hours: 3.00
- Human Cultures Behavioral/Social Science Selective - Credit Hours: 3.00
- Quantitative Reasoning Selective - Credit Hours: 3.00-5.00
- Science Selective - Credit Hours: 1.00-4.00
- Science, Technology & Society Selective or Major Course - Credit Hours: 3.00-4.00
- Written Communication Selective - Credit Hours: 3.00-4.00

University Core Requirements

For a complete listing of University Core Course Selectives, visit the [Provost's Website](#).

- Human Cultures: Behavioral/Social Science (BSS)
- Human Cultures: Humanities (HUM)
- Information Literacy (IL)
- Oral Communication (OC)
- Quantitative Reasoning (QR)
- Science #1 (SCI)
- Science #2 (SCI)
- Science, Technology, and Society (STS)

- Written Communication (WC)

Prerequisite Information:

For current pre-requisites for courses, [click here](#).

Program Requirements

Fall 1st Year

- EDPS 10500 - Academic And Career Planning
- Quantitative Reasoning Selective - Credit Hours: 3.00-5.00
- Written Communication Selective or Oral Communication Selective - Credit Hours: 3.00-4.00
- Human Cultures Humanities Selective or Human Cultures Behavioral/Social Science Selective - Credit Hours: 3.00
- Science Selective or Science, Technology & Society Selective or Intro to Major Course - Credit Hours: 1.00-4.00

13-19 Credits

Spring 1st Year

- Written Communication Selective or Oral Communication Selective - Credit Hours: 3.00-4.00
- Human Cultures Humanities Selective or Human Cultures Behavioral/Social Science Selective - Credit Hours: 3.00
- Science Selective or Science, Technology & Society Selective or Major Course - Credit Hours: 3.00-4.00
- Major Course - Credit Hours: 3.00
- Major Course - Credit Hours: 3.00

15-17 Credits

Disclaimer

The student is ultimately responsible for knowing and completing all degree requirements.

The myPurduePlan powered by DegreeWorks is the knowledge source for specific requirements and completion.