

Exploratory Studies

Department of Exploratory Studies

Who We Are

<https://www.purdue.edu/exploratory/>

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 the following:

- Exploring students will take EDPS 10500, Academic and Career Planning, in their first semester. This is a full semester, 3-credit, graded course that allows students to "try on" and evaluate many majors and careers before having to commit to one.
- 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, which allows advisors 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.
- 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 since its inception 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:

- IDENTIFY strengths, interests, and values
- EXPLORE academic and career possibilities
- REFLECT on the intersection of self-discovery and future career goals

We value:

- Affirming the uniqueness of individual students

- Relationship-building and open conversations
- Curiosity and open-mindedness
- Fostering a growth mindset
- Coaching and mentoring
- Diversity in our community

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 requirements for transfer to Exploratory Studies: <https://www.purdue.edu/exploratory/prospective/transfer-students.php>

Minimum GPA: 2.7

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 the following: 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.
- 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 who CODO into Exploratory Studies and maintain a freshman classification (going into the 2nd term) MUST take EDPS 10500 "Academic & Career Planning" in Exploratory Studies:

<https://www.purdue.edu/exploratory/prospective/edps-10500.php>

Link to course syllabus: <https://sswis.mypurdue.purdue.edu/CourseInsights/>

Contact Information

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Advising Directory: <https://www.purdue.edu/advisors/directory/index.php>

Pre-Program

Explorers, DS

About the Program

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 Requirements

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)

Civics Literacy Proficiency Requirement

The Civics Literacy Proficiency activities are designed to develop civic knowledge of Purdue students in an effort to graduate a more informed citizenry. For more information visit the [Civics Literacy Proficiency website](#).

Students will complete the Proficiency by passing a test of civic knowledge, and completing one of three paths:

- Attending six approved civics-related events and completing an assessment for each; or
- Completing 12 podcasts created by the Purdue Center for C-SPAN Scholarship and Engagement that use C-SPAN material and completing an assessment for each; or
- Earning a passing grade for one of **these approved courses** (or transferring in approved AP or departmental credit in lieu of taking a course).

Upper Level Requirement

- Resident study at Purdue University for at least two semesters and the enrollment in and completion of at least 32 semester hours of coursework required and approved for the completion of the degree. These courses are expected to be at least junior-level (30000+) courses.
- Students should be able to fulfill *most, if not all*, of these credits within their major requirements; there should be a clear pathway for students to complete any credits not completed within their major.

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.

Consultation with an advisor may result in an altered plan customized for an individual student.

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