



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?



Academic Home for Exploring Students

- Team of Advisors and Educators
 - Personalized one-on-one advising
 - Supplemental advising for students in declared majors
 - Pre-Med and Pre-Law advising
- Teach Courses
 - COMX 111US – Intro to Public Speaking
 - LEG 140 – Intro to Law and Legal Profession
 - US 101US – First Year Seminar – Place and Identity
 - US 102 – Career Connections
- Coordinate National Student Exchange

Explore the Best Academic Fit

- Starting in University Studies at MSU is a smart choice
- Normal to be undecided when starting college
 - Over 50% of MSU students change their major at least once before graduation
- Introduce new courses and majors your student might not have considered



Who are University Studies Students?

- 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





How does advising work in University Studies?



- 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, resources, and make recommendations but ultimately, every decision will be your student's



Undecided to Declared: 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

Make informed decisions
Have you considered....?

Ways to think about Majors

- Does the major(s) you are considering lead to a professional certificate?
- If not, does it track into a career?
- Does it focus on areas of individual interest?

Strengths

1

Accounting

Interests

2

Architecture

Values

3

Education

Goals

4

Engineering

... Enjoyment

5

Nursing

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

Attend Major Madness to explore possible majors

October 14, 2025

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

Selecting courses to help fill degree or core requirements while exploring potential majors.



Sample Schedules used to Explore

Majors related to Environment

- COMX 111US – Public Speaking
- M 161Q – Survey of Calculus
- BIOB 170IN – Principles of Biological Diversity
- MUSI 203IA – American Popular Music
- BIOE 103CS – Environmental Science & Society

Majors that Help Others

- HLD 121US – Leadership Foundations
- M 105Q – Contemporary Math
- HDFS 101IS – Lifespan Human Development
- ANTY 101D – Anthropology & Human Experience
- BIOM 103IN – Microbes in the Environment



What is Pre-University Studies?



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's Lists

US 101US – First - Year Seminar: Place and Identity

- Fulfills US CORE requirement
- Eases transition from high school to college
- Small, discussion-based classes

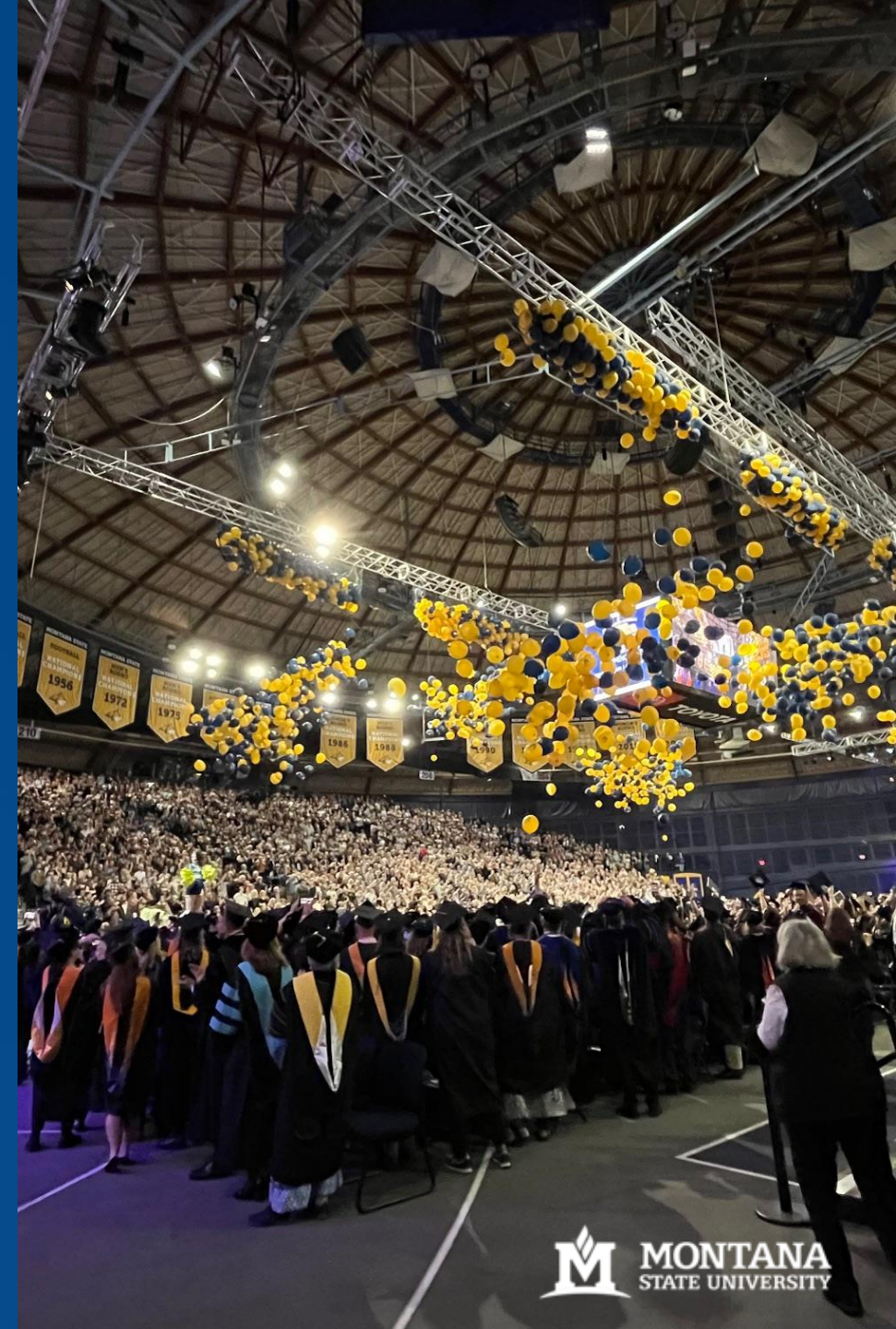
Your student will:

- Understand college-level academic expectations
- Explore new ideas and perspectives
- Connect with peers



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.

Emily Mason
National Student Exchange
Coordinator



Advising Availability

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



Questions?



