Welcome to the College of University Studies!

As a student in the College of University Studies, you are one of approximately 8% of the entering class at North Dakota State University. Students exploring possible majors make up one of the largest groups of entering students. Your decision to postpone declaring a major gives you the opportunity to explore your options and become familiar with a variety of courses and careers. Finding a major will involve time, study, and effort, but a good choice now will ideally lead to a lifetime spent in a fulfilling career.

As a student in the College of University Studies, you will find a wide variety of options available to you when you begin to plan your curriculum. You will be assigned an academic advisor willing to assist you with what may initially appear to be an overwhelming set of choices. However, with the help of your advisor, you will choose from a list of general education courses required of all entering students, and from a list of introductory level course designed to introduce you to specific areas of knowledge.

Admission to North Dakota State University implies that you have met selective criteria established by NDSU and the State Board of Higher Education. By virtue of your admission, NDSU believes that you have the potential to be a successful student. However, capitalizing on that potential is something that you as a student will be challenged to do from the time of arrival to the time of graduation. Successful students are those who, among other things, manage time wisely and develop and maximize their ability to establish and prioritize goals.

As a full-time student, you may expect to initially carry a load of approximately 15 credits with a preparation time of at least two hours study outside of class for every hour spent in class. Many students hold part-time jobs while attending college. In addition, studies show that extra-curricular involvement with student activities enhances a student’s potential for success. Establishing relationships with faculty, advisors, and other students will provide you with contacts and friendships that will enhance not only your time spent on campus, but also your life for many years to follow.

As you can see, life as a college student will be full of hard work, challenge, and pleasure. NDSU is ready to provide you with the services and facilities necessary if you are to reach your potential. We would like to challenge you to use to the fullest everything that is available to you. The College of University Studies will serve as the home-base from which you will launch your college career. We want to support you while you take time to look around, identify your goals, and find your major. Please stop by Morrill Hall 112 if you have questions or just to say “hello.” We are here to assist you as you begin this exciting new stage in your academic career.

Carolyn Schnell, Associate Dean
College of University Studies
Academic Advising Procedures

Assignment of Academic Advisors –
Following admission to North Dakota State University, each student is assigned an academic advisor. You are encouraged to meet with your advisor on a regular basis. Your advisor is an excellent resource on campus.

Meeting with your Advisor -
When you arrive on campus for your orientation or class registration, academic advisors will be available to assist you with course selection.

First semester curriculum –
During the first semester, students are advised to take courses in general education as well as exploratory courses in areas of interest. Students may include courses from the following to total approximately 15 credits.

- Skills for Academic Success
- Communication
- Quantitative Reasoning
- Social and Behavioral Sciences
- Humanities and Fine Arts
- Science and Technology
- Wellness
- Exploratory Course

If your advisor is unavailable –
Occasionally, particularly during the summer months, your advisor may not be available due to other commitments. If your advisor is unavailable, you will be assigned a temporary advisor. Your file will later be sent to your permanent advisor.