

Auburn University

EXPLORATORY ADVISING CENTER

uc.auburn.edu/exploratory-advising-center/

What is the Exploratory Major?

The Exploratory Major within the Exploratory Advising Center allows first-year freshmen the opportunity to explore different majors, academic programs, and areas of interest in depth prior to choosing their intended major at Auburn University. In the center, freshmen are advised by cross-trained academic advisors and career counselors who provide intensive and personalized advising designed to help them choose the major that most closely meets their academic aptitudes and interests as well as their long-term goals.

Is the Exploratory Major right for you?

Yes! If you don't know what to major in, we have good news: you don't have to know. Students who spend dedicated time exploring their major options are more likely to choose the right major the first time and avoid delays in graduation. Your academic advisor and career counselor will guide you in exploring different majors, academic programs, and areas of interest. You will have opportunities for career assessments, job shadowing, course observation, and meeting advisors across campus. At the end of this journey, you will have your answer.

Coming into Auburn as a freshman, I was considering four different majors. By taking personality and interest tests along with the help of my advisors, the Exploratory Major helped me narrow down my options and realize my passion for becoming a nurse.

– Elizabeth Shepherd, Birmingham, AL



THIS IS DISCOVERING YOUR PATH.



CAREER COUNSELING



ACADEMIC ADVISING

- › Facilitate and discuss career assessments
- › Discuss majors and interest areas
- › Connect students to academic and social resources for student success
- › Provide career-related resources that assist with career exploration

- › Navigate curriculum and courses for intended major
- › Registration assistance and policy reinforcement for the Exploratory program
- › Transfer out process
- › Referral to other advisors on campus



My job shadowing experience at a local high school allowed me to realize something about Ms. Ferrell that is essential to any great teacher: the perfect balance between disciplining and encouraging students. I hope to master this balance on my personal journey to become a great teacher.

– Abby Hicks, Owens Cross Roads, AL



CONNECT WITH US.

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**EXPLORE.
DECIDE.
SUCCEED.**

FIRST YEAR SEMINAR COURSES: EXPLORING MAJORS

Exploratory students have two semesters to navigate academic and career interests with the support of the staff in the center. You will take two “Exploring Majors” first year seminar courses taught by your academic advisor and career counselor where you will engage in hands-on activities and experiences to help you choose your major.

Fall UNIV 1060

This first year seminar explores the process of choosing a major, tips for successful transition to college life, and study strategies as they relate to content. You will be introduced to the process of choosing a major, majors available at Auburn University, and available assessments and resources through individual and group activities as well as personal reflection. Application of study strategies as they relate to the content area will be practiced.

You will:

- › Complete personality assessments such as Type Focus and Strong Interest Inventory
- › Attend one-on-one meetings with your exploratory academic advisor and career counselor throughout the semester for guidance and support
- › Gain practical experiences through informational interviews and job shadowing experiences with individuals on campus and in the community, based on interest areas
- › Practice effective research techniques for major and career exploration

Spring UNIV 1100

This first year seminar further explores the interest that students identified in their first semester at Auburn. You will engage in your two top interest areas through job shadowing, course observation, career counseling, and advising. You will also learn to be proficient in professional communication, personal branding, and networking to enable you to successfully gain job shadowing opportunities. You will reflect on these experiences and synthesize your learning through creation of a personal e-portfolio that can be used to aid in applying for job shadowing opportunities and later on in applying for application-based majors.

You will:

- › Create and utilize professional resources, such as e-Portfolios and LinkedIn, to assist in the professional development piece of major and career exploration
- › Gain practical experience in your intended major field, including the opportunity to job shadow current professionals in their desired fields
- › Participate in informational interviews, class shadowing experiences, and visits with representatives associated with your intended major and college of choice



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