DEPARTMENT OF EXPLORATORY STUDIES

The Department of Exploratory Studies serves as an entry point to The University of Toledo for students who are exploring college majors, or working to meet the admission requirements of a specific program/college. It also offers services to enhance a student’s transition to the university setting and become successful in their academic pursuits. The Department of Exploratory Studies includes services for non-degree seeking students, Pre-major students, Exploratory Studies students, Conditional Students, College Credit Plus, and the QUEST for Success Program.

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Quest for Success: Student Exploring Majors

The QUEST Program ensures that students who are undecided on a major and are exploring their options have access to the resources necessary to make informed academic and career choices. Students can stay in the QUEST Program for a maximum of three academic semesters. At any time during the three semesters, providing they meet the requirements for their chosen major, students can declare a major in an academic college.

The program provides academic advising that serves the various needs of students choosing a major and refers them to other campus events, services, and resources such as Career Events, tutoring, career development, and others as necessary. While in the QUEST program, students work to fulfill general education requirements. Employers are looking for college-educated employees with transferable job skills. QUEST helps students gain these skills, which include critical thinking, decision-making, and adaptation to change.

Exploratory Studies

Students that do not meet the admission requirements for the college of their choice are placed into the Department of Exploratory Studies. Students may take advantage of advisors and Success Coaches who will guide them through the process as they prepare to enter their chosen program or college. Advisers are dedicated to helping students make the right choice in scheduling classes and to making referrals if additional academic support is needed. After a student’s first semester within Exploratory Studies, they will be re-evaluated to determine if they meet the requirements to officially declare a major in the college of their choice. While in Exploratory Studies, students work to fulfill general education requirements and take UC 1000, a 1-credit Orientation course and UC 1120, a 2 credit Career and Self-evaluation course.

Pre-Major Students

The Pre-Major Program here in University College is an associate’s degree program aimed at providing you with additional services and programs that will assist you in fulfilling your educational goals.

During your time as a pre-major student, you will:

- Take a reduced credit load
- Attend a specialized orientation course
  - UC 1150: Orientation for College Success (3-credits)
- Participate in a cohort based curriculum

After a student’s first semester within the Associates Degree Program, students will be re-evaluated to determine if they meet the requirements to officially declare a major in the college of their choice. After that first semester, if students are above a 2.0 cumulative GPA but still wish to remain undeclared in Exploratory Studies, the Department will move students into a bachelor’s degree program temporarily until they are ready to declare their major.

Non-Degree Seeking Students

Students who are not seeking a degree, yet want to gain new skills or enhance an existing skill, expand career development, or explore new subject matter for personal growth can find a place in The Department of Exploratory Studies. Students can take up to 24 semester hours of undergraduate college credit as a non-degree seeking student.

Change of College or Major to Exploratory Studies

Students in good standing (i.e., with a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher) who wish to change from another college of The University of Toledo to the Department of Exploratory Studies should make an appointment with an adviser to discuss the transfer and have their academic records reviewed. Student transfers will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Students who have decided on an academic major or are qualified to transfer from the Department of Exploratory Studies into the college or program of their choice must meet the academic criteria set by the receiving college or program. Students should make an appointment to discuss their transfer with an adviser in the college they wish to enter.