Welcome to EXPLORATORY STUDIES College Connect!

THE WORLD NEEDS MORE COWBOYS.
Exploratory Studies: Myths

- Nobody else is undecided and exploring.
- Starting college as exploratory studies is normal.
- With over ??? major options and nearly as many minors, you don’t want to be hasty making a decision.
- Approximately ?% of all incoming students start as Exploratory Studies.
Exploratory Studies: Myths

- Students who start as Exploratory Studies take longer to graduate.
- Students who receive support and assistance in selecting a major are just as likely as their peers to graduate in a timely manner.
- An average of 45% of UW students who start in a declared major change their major at least once.
Exploratory Studies: Myths

- If I don’t start in a certain major when I start, I might not be able to get into it later.

- This is not true! Students who start in Exploratory Studies have the same opportunities to apply to majors.

- ACES advisors and career counselors will provide guidance and support to put you in the right place to potentially declare your major.
Exploratory Studies: Myths

- Picking a major is basically the same as selecting a career.
- Majors and careers are connected but they are not the same.
- Some degrees lead to a specific career field, like nursing or engineering.
- Starting as Exploratory Studies contributes to becoming a T-shaped person-
Exploratory Studies: Realities

- Finding YOUR major is an active process and journey
- Advisors, career counselors and “your people” are your best resources
- Outside the classroom experiences will influence your major choice just as much as courses
- Take some risks and step outside your comfort zone
Olivia’s Story

“I grew and changed so much from my freshman year. Choosing to be exploratory studies allowed me the room and time to try different areas and have different experiences.”

“I found my major interests in the different things I did on campus.”

• Olivia Cole
• Social Science, Gender and Women’s Studies
• Bridge and First Generation Peer mentor
• ?
Jessica’s Story

● “After finishing my freshman year and looking back at all that happened, going exploratory studies was the one thing that helped me find my path.”

● “I found my major interests in the different things I did on campus.”

• Jessica Chavez
• Social Work
• Alternative Spring Break: Immigration Immersion in Las Cruces, New Mexico
Exploratory Tracks

- Culture, Society & Diversity
- Sciences, Technology & the Environment
- Human Service, Wellness & Social Science
- Government, Public Policy & Justice
- Math, Data Science & Business
- Communication, Media & the Arts
SOAR and Exploratory Studies achievement

- It’s not just about the courses!
University Studies Program (USP)

- General education courses
  - First Year Seminar (FY)
  - Communication 1 (C1)
  - Communication 2 (C2)
  - Communication 3 (C3)
  - Quantitative Reasoning (Q)
  - Physical and Natural World (PN—6 credits)
  - Human Culture (H—6 credits)
  - UW & Wyoming Constitution (V)

- Required for all students, regardless of major
  - Some majors may require specific courses to be completed
FIRST YEAR SEMINAR (FYS)
- Research, Discuss & Collaborate
- Critically analyze information
- Synthesize perspectives and viewpoints
- Evaluate your own and others' assumptions
- Communicate ideas in writing
- Present a creative project
- Required
- 3 credit hours

FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE (FYE)
- Course Subject: YOU
- Transition to college life
- Campus Engagement
- Academic Success
- Personal Growth
- Wellness
- Optional
- 1 credit hour
15 to Finish

- All undergraduate degree programs at UW require at least 120 hours to graduate, some more.
- Take an average of at least 15 credit hours in the fall and spring semesters.
- Four year degree plans are available on the UW website: (http://www.uwyo.edu/acadaffairs/degree-plans/uw-4-year-plans/)
- There is substantial data showing this dramatically increases on-time graduation rates, leads to higher GPAs, and lower dropout rates.
Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

- Elementary through High School
  - Gave parents and students right to access and control student’s educational records.

- College
  - Students, regardless of age, determine who will receive information about them.
  - Parents are **NOT** automatically granted access to a student’s records without written consent of the student

- Includes grades, finances, and discipline records
  - Students can sign a release form to grant parents access to financial information at the Financial Services booth outside the Senate Chambers during the Resource Fair.
Check your UW Email

- All official communication from UW and your professors will come through your University of Wyoming email, not your personal email.

- To access your UW email:
  - Go to wyoweb.uwyo.edu
  - Click on the Email icon
  - Login with your UW credentials

- Your UW email becomes your primary contact email on July 1.

- Check both!
Viewing Your Bill

- You will not receive a paper bill!
- To access your electronic statement:
  - Go to wyoweb.uwyo.edu
  - Click on Student Account under the Students section of WyoRecords
  - Select Student Financial Portal
- Parents can be added as an Authorized User
  - See the Financial Services booth outside the Senate Chambers during the Resource Fair, next
  - Cannot see grades or classes
Step-In
IMPACT STATEMENT

BUCKING THE SYSTEM SINCE 1886.
Questions and Wrap-Up

- Advising, Career & Exploratory Studies
- 222 Knight Hall
- aces@uwyo.edu; 307.766.2398
SECTION TITLE PAGE

THE WORLD NEEDS MORE ADVENTUROUS SPIRIT.
BRANDING TAGLINES

BUCKING THE SYSTEM SINCE 1886.

EPICALLY INNOVATIVE SINCE 1886.

THE WORLD NEEDS MORE COWBOYS.

THE WORLD NEEDS MORE RELENTLESS CURIOSITY.

THE WORLD NEEDS MORE WONDER.

THE WORLD NEEDS MORE INSPIRED CREATIVITY.

THE WORLD NEEDS MORE ADVENTUROUS SPIRIT.