

Overview: University of Wyoming Exploratory Studies

Some students enter the University of Wyoming as freshmen knowing exactly which major they will declare. Many do not. Traditionally, students who have not yet decided on a major, begin their academic career as “Undeclared,” meaning they are not attached to a specific college or program.

Now the University of Wyoming offers an alternative to the Undeclared status in the form of several Exploratory Tracks students can pursue that may eventually lead to a declared major. Each student entering the University of Wyoming will either have declared a major or chosen an Exploratory Track. The Exploratory Tracks consist of six different areas of interest:

Communication, Media, and the Arts

Math, Data Science, and Business

Government, Public Policy, and Justice

Human Service, Wellness, and Social Science

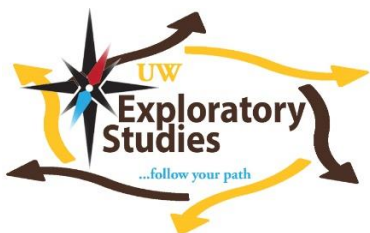
Sciences and the Environment

Culture, Society, and Diversity

Our faculty and professional advising staff collaborated to create these Exploratory Tracks and suggested courses in each for first-year students to explore examples of offerings typical to the majors represented within each track.

For first-year students living in the UW Residence Halls, specific floors have been identified as learning communities that incorporate many of the Exploratory Tracks listed above. Students will be giving more information about these learning communities when they complete the Residence Hall contracts.

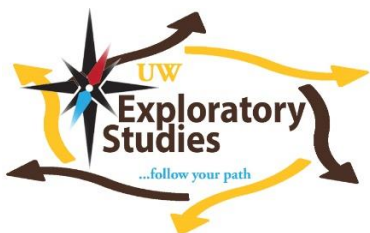
This document provides program goals and answers to some frequently asked questions. Other documents available at www.uwyo.edu/aces/exploratory_studies provide further details about the program.



Goals of the Exploratory Studies Program

Following are the goals of the Exploratory Studies program:

1. To speed the process of declaring a major for students who enter UW without choosing a major.
2. To provide students who have yet to choose a major with comprehensive information about the content of current degree programs, program requirements and courses, and possible future degree-related career paths.
3. To provide Academic Advisors with information about a student's academic and career interests to better advise them toward a choice of major and course selection.
4. To provide prospective students who have decided to seek a University degree but have not begun to make a decision on a degree path with the broad range of academic possibilities available to them, as well as grouping like disciplines so prospective students can begin the process of narrowing their academic choices based on their interests and possible future career goals.
5. To provide parents and guardians of prospective students with a picture of the breadth of programs available at UW and to assist them in providing academic and career path advice.
6. To present the University experience as a purposeful journey, but one that may consist of a period of academic experimentation and exploration in order to identify a student's true academic calling.



Frequently Asked Questions

Is an Exploratory Track the same as a Major?

Although an individual Exploratory Track may lead to a Major Program of Study it is not a declared Major. When you choose an Exploratory Track, you are expressing an interest in a general field of study and will explore courses in that selected track.

I already know my Major. Do I also have to choose an Exploratory Track?

Congratulations on making your choice! If you have already declared a Major, you do not choose an Exploratory Track to follow. The goal of an Exploratory Track is to discover a Major that fits your goals and interests. If you've already accomplished that task, carry on with your degree program.

If I haven't decided on a Major, do I *have* to select an Exploratory Track? Can't I just be Undeclared?

There is no longer a general Undeclared track at the University of Wyoming. We feel that these Exploratory Tracks are generic enough to allow students to explore lots of possible majors while still completing their general education requirements.

After I choose an Exploratory Track, will I be automatically enrolled in a program of courses?

A chosen Exploratory Track only presents a possible menu of courses to sample; you will still be individually advised by one of our professional Academic Advisors, and the ultimate choice of courses to take is yours.

If I choose an Exploratory Track does that mean I have to eventually choose a Major listed in that Track?

The purpose of Exploratory Tracks is to explore a general field of study that meets your current interests. Maybe taking a course in that Track helped you change your original intentions to study in a particular area, and now you want to declare a Major listed in a completely different Track. If you meet the requirements for a particular plan of study you can declare any Major you like or begin your path toward meeting the requirements for that program no matter in which Track it was listed.

Why do some majors appear in more than one Exploratory Track?

Some majors, such as Mechanical Engineering, squarely fit into the *Sciences*, *Technology*, and the *Environment* track. Many other majors, though, are applicable to two (or more) tracks, depending on the types of careers that may result from pursuing them. For example, someone interested in a career in government or law may pursue an

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English degree as an undergraduate, which would fit into the *Government, Public Policy, and Justice* track. Another person may aspire to be an English teacher (*Human Service, Wellness, and Social Justice* track) or become an author or advertising copywriter (*Communication, Media, and the Arts*). Part of the University experience in contrast to that of a Vocational Institution is that many fields of study overlap to result in myriad concentrations of course material resulting in the possibility of various career outcomes.