

# Exploration Program

College is a time of transition and exploration. By exploring academic options you can expand your horizons as a new Ohio State student. While you enter the university with a solid academic background, we offer an amazing variety of majors, minors, specializations, and programs for you to examine and pursue. If you want to investigate your academic options before making a commitment to a specific major, the Exploration Program is perfect for you.

Students choose to explore academic options for a variety of reasons. Some students have so many interests and abilities that limiting choices seems troublesome. Other students have narrowed the choices to two or three, but want more in-depth information before making a final choice. Still others are uncertain about majors or careers and want to sample the academic variety available before choosing. Exploration students often pursue double majors or major and minor combinations that reflect their high academic ability. For all of these types of students, the Exploration Program is the best starting place.

In order to encourage and enhance the desire of students to explore before choosing a major, the Exploration Program is designed to help you individualize your exploration process while also providing a broad overview of the many options available. We start where you are. The Exploration Program offers four sub-groups from which students can begin their investigation. These groups are 1) General Exploration, 2) Health Sciences Exploration, 3) Management and Industry Exploration, and 4) Science and Technology Exploration.

## General Exploration

Do you have many interests “all over the board?” Are you curious about the range of options available at Ohio State? The General Exploration area will help you begin or fine-tune your search by investigating all of the majors that interest you.

## Health Professions Exploration

Do you want to pursue a degree or profession in a health-related field but are not exactly certain about the best undergraduate path? Are you thinking about pre-med, pre-optometry, pre-dentistry, or other health related areas? Many undergraduate majors can lead to these professional degrees. Participation in Health Professions Exploration will start your search by focusing upon health-related majors at Ohio State. It is likely that you will hear about majors that you have never

considered. If you change your focus area, you will also have the option to learn about majors outside of the health sciences area as well.

## Management & Industry Exploration

Are you interested in entering the world of business? The academic backgrounds of businessmen and women will astound you! If you would like to know the varied ways you can choose an undergraduate major and pursue a career in business, the Management and Industry Exploration is the path for you.

## Science & Technology Exploration

Do science, math, and technology fascinate you? Are you thinking about possible careers in engineering, biology, physics, computer science, and more? If you see yourself as a “science” person, Science and Technology Exploration will help you determine what undergraduate route will lead to your science and technology career goals.

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I started in Exploration because I have interests in so many different areas. It was scary to think I had to choose just one. It's been great to learn about so many majors in survey class and being able to get additional information from my academic advisor.

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**For more information, check these web sites:**

**Exploration Program:** [exploration.osu.edu](http://exploration.osu.edu)

**Ohio State:** [www.osu.edu](http://www.osu.edu)

**Financial Aid:** [sfa.osu.edu](http://sfa.osu.edu)

**Admissions:** [undergrad.osu.edu](http://undergrad.osu.edu)

**Multicultural Center:** [multiculturalcenter.osu.edu](http://multiculturalcenter.osu.edu)

**First Year Experience Program:** [fye.osu.edu](http://fye.osu.edu)

## Is Exploration a small program?

**A:** The Exploration Program (EXP) is a popular one! Approximately one-fifth of all entering students enroll in EXP. Given the multiple talents and interests students bring to the university, reviewing options is appealing.

## Will I get behind in my academic work if I start in the Exploration Program?

**A:** Usually not. If you discuss your interests and ideas with your advisor on a regular basis, you will be advised to take courses that will likely count toward any major you eventually choose. It is particularly helpful to let us know if you are leaning toward a science or non-science major since math and science classes tend to be strictly sequenced. Even if you have “no idea” about a major at this time, we will help you select classes that are likely to count toward any major you pursue.

## How do I switch from the Exploration Program to my major of choice?

**A:** Every major has particular entry requirements – some as simple as attending a brief major orientation to others requiring a competitive written application. Your advisor can give you the details of what you need to do once you choose a major of interest.

## How long will I be in the Exploration Program?

**A:** Students can stay in the Exploration Program for 6 quarters—which generally translates to the beginning of their junior year. Some students transfer into their major after one quarter while others stay in the Exploration Program the entire 6 quarters. We encourage students to actively explore, and, once they find an interesting and attainable major, to move forward with their degree completion plans.

### Academic Advising for Students in Exploration

Academic advising occurs during all phases of a student’s education: from pre-orientation to graduation. Our pre-orientation program provides an opportunity for students to review typical first-year courses that meet University requirements while at the same time allowing students to explore current interests and open doors for new interests to develop. The pre-orientation program helps students increase their preparation for, and comfort with, the on-campus orientation. During orientation, students in the Exploration Program are assigned an academic advisor. This advisor is a “generalist” trained in the basics of all of the undergraduate programs offered at Ohio State. The advisor helps students choose first quarter classes, teach the introductory survey

class required of all Ohio State students, and are available for individualized appointments until a student chooses a major.

### Academic Program Options

One advantage of a comprehensive university is the number and variety of academic programs which students can choose. Ohio State has more than 170 undergraduate majors and 90 minors. The following are only some examples of academic majors arranged by possible areas of interest.

#### Science-Related Majors

Animal Science  
Athletic Training  
Aviation  
Biochemistry  
Biology  
Chemistry  
Circulation Technology  
Engineering  
Environmental Science  
Exercise Science  
Forestry, Fisheries and Wildlife Management  
Geography  
Geological Science  
Microbiology  
Molecular Genetics  
Nutrition  
Physics

#### Business-Related Majors

Agribusiness and Applied Economics  
Consumer Affairs  
Economics  
Finance  
Foreign Language  
Health Information Management and Systems  
Hospitality Management  
Human Resources  
Marketing  
Parks, Recreation, & Tourism Administration  
(Human Dimensions in Natural Resources)  
Political Science  
Sport & Leisure Studies  
World Economy & Business (International Studies)

#### Human Services-Related Majors

Criminology & Criminal Justice  
Elementary Education\*  
Family Studies  
Psychology  
Social Work

Sociology  
Speech & Hearing Science

\*Available only on the regional campuses as a pre-certification program. Otherwise, additional acceptance into a graduate program and completion of graduate work is required.

### Communication-Related Majors

Agricultural Communication  
Communication (3 specialty areas)  
English  
Environmental Communication, Education & Interpretation  
Foreign Language  
History  
Journalism

### Arts-Related Majors:

Architecture  
Art  
Dance  
History of Art  
Industrial Design  
Interior Design  
Music  
Theatre

### Mathematics-Related Majors

Actuarial Science  
Astronomy  
Computer and Information Science  
Engineering  
Mathematics  
Mathematics Education\*\*

\*\* You must complete a master's program to be certified to teach in public schools.

### Co-Curricular Opportunities

Ohio State offers many opportunities for students to learn and grow outside of the classroom. These range from cooperative education (co-op) and internships to study abroad programs to student organizations. Co-ops and internships place students in professional environments while they are Ohio State students. Ohio State offers more than 100 study abroad programs in 40 countries around the world. In addition, there are hundreds of student organizations on campus to meet the interests of a diverse student population.

These experiences enable students to gain valuable work experience, learn about cultures, and take on leadership roles before they enter the workforce. All of these experiences enhance learning and may provide an advantage in the job market.

### Honors & Scholars Opportunities

Ohio State offers the Honors & Scholars programs to create an environment of intellectual support and stimulation within a close-knit community of high-ability undergraduate students. Through these programs, students have access to smaller classes, undergraduate research opportunities, close working relationships with faculty, priority scheduling, and unique housing options.

Honors & Scholars programs represent great opportunities to be part of a smaller community within a large university. Good candidates for these programs will receive additional information after admission to the university. Learn more about the Honors & Scholars program at [honors-scholars.osu.edu](https://honors-scholars.osu.edu).

“ I have absolutely loved my experience with my Exploration Academic Advisor. After my first visit with her, my worries about being undecided had completely dissolved. My advisor assisted me throughout my entire first year of college and helped me declare a major at the end of my freshman year. Without her assistance, I wouldn't have known what classes and academic options were available to me. ”

### Curriculum Samples

Students are often concerned about what classes to take for their first few quarters while they are exploring major options. Depending upon your direction, advisors will help you choose course work that counts toward the vast majority of majors offered at Ohio State. Many general education courses (known as GECs) are required of every major, thus students often begin their Ohio State academic careers with several GEC courses that may simultaneously help them explore possible majors and major combinations.

The goals of scheduling are twofold: 1) to help students begin exploring majors of interest, 2) to choose classes that will count toward completion of an academic degree at Ohio State.

Students considering science, technology, health, & more:

- Psychology 100
- Mathematics 150
- Chemistry 121
- Exploration Survey 100

Students considering sociology, foreign language, theatre, and more:

- Sociology 101
- Foreign Language 102
- Theatre 100
- Exploration Survey 100

Both of these schedules show flexibility since the courses count towards any major. The courses are selected in response to student interests and exploration goals.

### Additional Test Resources

Many self-assessment inventories are available to help students identify and analyze their interests, abilities, and values which can then be translated into effective academic and career decisions. Professional staff members work with students to decide if, and what, testing might be appropriate.

### Senior Bank

Many Ohio State seniors are willing to talk to freshmen, sophomores, and juniors about their majors. Each year outstanding seniors are selected to be part of the Senior Bank program. Through the Senior Bank directory, students can learn more about course work, internships, and careers through a student-to-student connection.

### Career Counseling and Job Placement

Working with assigned advisors and guest presenters, students begin receiving career information as they explore majors during their first quarter. As students progress in their major search, exploration advisors will refer students to career services throughout the university. All degree-granting colleges offer specific job information about the major fields of study in their college. Many placement offices offer specialized services such as workshops on resume writing and interviewing. Some offices arrange extensive on-campus job interview schedules at various times during the year. Most units also provide information about internship opportunities which are essential in the job-seeking pathway. In addition, Career Connection, (in the Counseling and Consultation Services office), offers career counseling and workshops on a variety of career-related topics.

### Additional Career Exploration Courses

Several units offer specific courses for credit to help students explore particular careers more thoroughly and/or to explore new options. Examples of course titles include: Introduction to the Health Professions, Introduction to Engineering, and Personal Growth to Increase Career Competencies.

### Apply to Ohio State

Students wishing to apply for admission have a number of options. Those with Internet access can download application materials or apply online by visiting [undergrad.osu.edu](http://undergrad.osu.edu). Students may also contact Undergraduate Admissions and First Year Experience at (614) 292-3980 or [askabuckeye@osu.edu](mailto:askabuckeye@osu.edu) to have an application mailed.

Revised July 2006

### Contact information:

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