

Academic Advising and the Career and Advising Center

Academic Advising

North Dakota State University is committed to an advising experience to assist students in reaching their full potential. The successful development of our students will be an intentional outcome of a partnership between advisor and advisee that provides accurate, supportive and quality information.

We envision an advising process that is:

- Consistent and student centered from matriculation through graduation
- Holistic, exploring academic, career, and life decisions
- Integrated and designed to encourage advising relationships and services across all units of the university (Academic, Career, and Well-being)
- Developmental
- Continually evaluated and responsive to data
- Committed to accessible, inclusive, and equitable practices

We envision advisors who are:

- Knowledgeable
- Accessible and approachable
- Caring and responsive

We envision advisees who are:

- Engaged in the advising relationship
- Responsible and prepared for advising discussions
- Aware of resources regarding campus policies and procedures

Following admission to NDSU, each student is assigned an advisor from the college or department in which the student is majoring. If a major has not been declared, an assignment is made with an advisor in the Career and Advising Center (<https://career-advising.ndsu.edu/>). Advisors assist students in selecting courses to ensure a balanced education and they help interpret university and college policies and requirements. However, students are responsible for their academic decisions and meeting all program requirements including the selection of courses, meeting course requisites (co-requisites/prerequisites), and adhering to policies, procedures, and deadlines. Students are encouraged to see their advisor prior to registration and to consult the university Bulletin for all degree program requirements. Students with advisor holds are required to meet with their advisors before the hold is lifted. advisor assignments and holds can be viewed on Campus Connection.

Degree Map (<https://www.ndsu.edu/registrar/degreemap/>) is an interactive planning tool for students and advisors to plan a path to graduation. Degree Map works alongside the Academic Requirements Report (<https://www.ndsu.edu/onestop/viewing-academic-requirement-report/>) within Campus Connection, so students can plan their class schedules, remaining requirements, and set academic and career goals to discuss with their academic advisor.

Each of the academic colleges has a Degree and Records Analyst (<https://www.ndsu.edu/registrar/office/analysts/>) within the Office of Registration and Records who serves as a central point of contact to support and facilitate academic advising activities for faculty and professional advisors working with undergraduate (including pharmacy programs) student degree progress.

Career and Advising Center

Students often choose to enter college without a declared major but with the goal of exploring various academic and career opportunities. At NDSU those students are served through the Career and Advising Center, whose mission is to guide academic exploration, provide academic advising services to undeclared/exploratory students, and support academic and career exploration.

Working one-on-one with an academic advisor in the Center, students choose one of five Exploratory Areas to guide their academic choices. Exploratory Areas are collections of majors at NDSU that can lead to careers in related fields. The five Exploratory Areas (<https://career-advising.ndsu.edu/exploratory-areas/>) are listed below:

- Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (<https://career-advising.ndsu.edu/stem-and-applied-sciences-exploratory-area/>) – an area for students interested in how and why things work or who enjoy using facts and figures to create innovative solutions to issues in fields like science, engineering and agriculture.

- Health & Life Sciences (<https://career-advising.ndsu.edu/health-and-life-science-exploratory-area/>) – an area for students fascinated by science and medicine, who enjoy solving problems and investigating the unknown. Ideal for students interested in a health field by becoming a practitioner or researching, creating and promoting health-related products and information.
- Social Science, Human Services & Education (<https://career-advising.ndsu.edu/social-science-human-service-and-education-exploratory-area/>) – an area for students who want to work in education and other people-oriented, helping fields. Teaching, counseling and advising are just some of the common traits.
- Liberal Arts, Communication & Design (<https://career-advising.ndsu.edu/liberal-arts-communication-design-exploratory-area/>) – an area for students interested in the arts, theory, history and design. Fits well with those who enjoy designing something new and being creative with music, art and language.
- Business Studies (<https://career-advising.ndsu.edu/business-studies-exploratory-area/>) – an area for students interested in working within a variety of settings like corporate offices or non-profit organizations. Leadership, analysis, marketing and persuasion are just a few characteristics common to this area.

Advising staff will confirm a student's choice of Exploratory Area during summer orientation and use it to help build the most appropriate course schedule, incorporating academic interests and goals. Students are encouraged to take 15-16 credits each semester that include general education requirements as well as a course to explore a major of interest. Advisors maintain a list of courses that can either serve as an introduction to a particular major or as a foundational course in that major's curriculum and work with students to select exploratory options.

Students may declare a major – or change their current major to undeclared so they can broadly explore their academic options – whenever they feel confident in doing so. Most students declare a major by the time they have completed approximately 45 credits or about three semesters of classwork.

Location & Contact Information:

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ndsu.cac@ndsu.edu

<https://career-advising.ndsu.edu/>