

Exploratory Studies

Overview

Exploratory Studies is a comprehensive program designed to meet the needs of first-year students who wish to explore their options in order to find a “best fit” major. With a focus on cross-curricular academic advising, career assessment, guided exploration of majors and careers, and programming to allow students opportunities to interact with advisors, faculty, upper-class students and professionals from different fields, our students are able to discover their passions and make an informed decision on a major.

Exploratory Studies academic advisors work with their students one-on-one as well as in the Exploratory Studies courses, University Studies Courses (USC) 101, 102, and 201. Our advising and curriculum address campus policies, resources and opportunities, and learning from diverse perspectives, as well as working toward meeting personal, academic and career goals.

Our Mission

To guide students through a structured process for transition to the university and selection of a major. Our program prepares students to gain the foundation for acquiring the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to become self-reliant and productive citizens of an increasingly diverse community.

Highlights

- Courses for Exploratory Studies students: USC 101 and USC 102, “Intro to University Education I and II,” for first-year students, and USC 201 (Spring Connect), “Exploring Majors, Careers, Identities.” Taught by the students’ academic advisor to build strong advising relationships with students. Focus on major and career exploration, transition to college, and academic success.
- Fall linked courses: students in select sections of USC 101 enroll in a linked first-year inquiry seminar (<https://fyi.dasa.ncsu.edu/>)

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