

# Explore with Us! Exploratory Preference

Undergraduate Education

University Advising



University Advising  
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY



# Welcome

**Mark Largent**

Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education





# University Advising

- Vision

We are a launchpad for students who would like to reflect, learn and grow academically as they take opportunities to gain exposure to multiple pathways of success.

- Mission

Support students through academic exploration as they gain insight, knowledge, and confidence in choosing a college/major path that aligns with the individual they choose to become. We believe that every Spartan has the capacity to LEARN, THRIVE and GRADUATE from Michigan State University.

# EXPLORATORY AND EXPLORING BUSINESS PREFERENCE MAJORS

University Advising helps students explore majors at MSU based on their interests and passions.

We serve students intending to complete criteria for majors with secondary admission processes.

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# University Advising Leadership Team



**Ebony D. Green, Ed.D.**  
Assistant Dean for  
University Advising



**Freddie DeRamus**  
Associate Director



**Justin Landis**  
Associate Director



**Debra Thornton-Fitzpatrick**  
Associate Director



**Stratton Lee, III**  
Director of University Advising



**Dr. Qiana Green**  
Director of Leadership and  
Professional Development Initiatives

# University Advising Exploratory Preference Team



Academic advising with a focus on **Agriculture, Environment, and STEM**

- **Justin Landis**, Associate Director
- **Jinyang “Donna” Mei**
- **Sam Nellis**
- **Shay Sandoval-Flores**



Academic advising with a focus on **Health Sciences**

- **Justin Landis**
- **Tammy Root**
- **Josh Herrin**



Academic advising with a focus on **PACES (Public Services, Arts & Culture, Communication, Education, Social Studies)**

- **Freddie DeRamus**, Associate Director
- **Morgan Johnson**
- **Jeff Lent**
- **Olivia Guy**
- **Troy Villanueva**

# University Advising Exploring Business Preference Team



Dedicated support for students in the Exploring Business Preference major

- **Debra Thornton-Fitzpatrick**, Associate Director
- **Dr. Kang Li**
- **James McGill**
- **Ashley Shafer**
- **Amy Stice**
- **Nestor Espinoza**
- **Nate Colon**
- **Alixandra Summitt**



# Expectation and Benefits of Exploration

## Academic Interest Areas

- Business and Innovation
- Health Sciences
- Political Science, Arts and Culture, Communications, Education and Social Science (PACES)
- Agriculture, Environment, and STEM

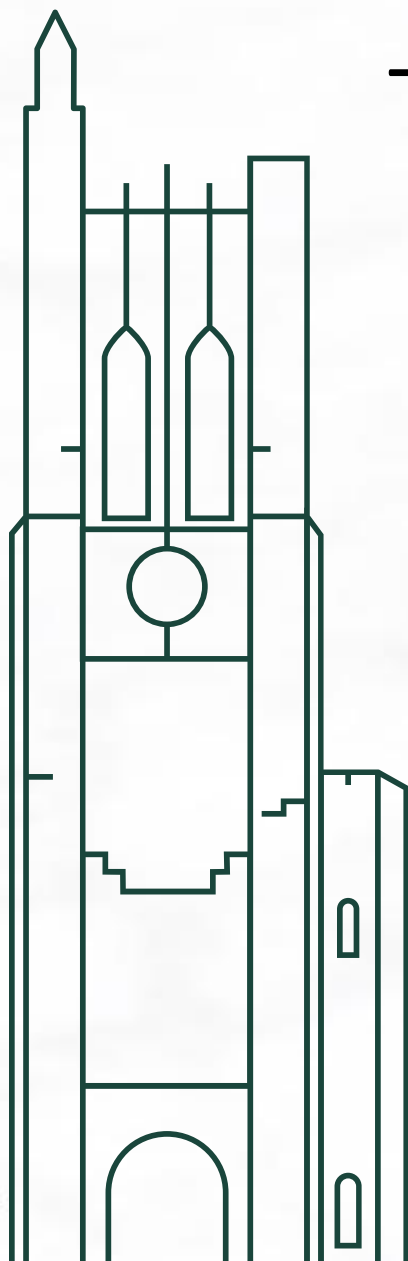
## Academic Exploration

- 1:1 Advising
- Undergraduate Studies (UGS) Courses
- Exploration and Transition workshops
- Review and monitor criteria for degree declaration and/or secondary admission to a preferred major by 56 credit hours



# The University Structure

- Colleges
  - Departments
    - Majors/Minors
- University Requirements
  - College Requirements
    - Major/Minor Requirements
- Co-Curriculum and Beyond Class Activities
  - Internships/Externships
  - Study Abroad
  - Student Organizations
  - Work Experience





# Types of Advising at MSU

## **University Advising: Exploratory Preference Advisors**

Exploratory advisors primarily work with first-year and second-year exploratory preference majors (up to 56 credits) and other students who are interested in exploring various major options. University advisors specialize in advising students about a variety of majors and will defer to a major advisor when necessary

## **College/Major Advisors**

The Academic Colleges serve as the primary academic advisors for all degree granting majors at MSU. These advisors are experts in their specific majors and assist students as they transition to graduation. The College/Major Advisors are located in their Colleges or departments, located throughout campus.

## **Honors Advisors** (for student admitted into the Honors College)

**Support Advisors** Career exploration, student life support, personal support, campus resources, financial aid, etc.



**72% of students actively change  
their major at least once**



# Top major chosen by students who began Exploratory Preference 2019-2022

FS1 (2019)	FS2 (2020)	FS3 (2021)	FS4 (2022)
Exploratory Pref (1,280) 97%	Exploratory Pref (473) 36%	Exploratory Pref (56) 5%	Exploratory Pref (12) 2%
	Business (160) 12% Communication Arts (110) 8% Social Science (109) 8%	Social Science (191) 18% Communication Arts (167) 16% Business (147) 14%	Social Science (151) 20% Communication Arts (133) 18% Business (118) 16%



# Pathway to Degree Declaration

- Major Changes
  - Students in University Advising should be prepared to choose a major by the end of the 2nd year.
  - Students can complete a major change form for any non-restricted major between 1st –and 4th semesters.
- Exploration should limit the need to change your major multiple times, although it is possible to do
- Restricted Majors/Secondary Admission Majors
  - A restricted major is a major that has additional admission requirements, including the successful completion of specific prerequisite coursework, a competitive grade point average or a required number of credits.
  - Secondary Admission means that students must still complete a secondary application process after their initial semester at MSU and an admission decision is rendered by that major.

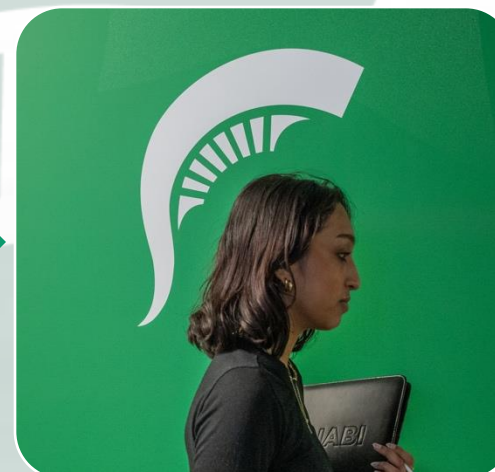
# Major Exploration is an A.C.T.I.V.E. process



# Major Exploration and Purpose Planning

- Academic Advising (Exploratory Advising)
- Career Advising (Career Services Network)
- Exploratory Classes
- Assessments- Spartan Interest Inventory, MBTI, etc.
- Research Majors- [Academic Programs Catalog](#)
- Research Careers- [What Can I Do With This Major?](#)
- Get Involved!
  - Registered Student Organizations (Involve@State), Undergraduate Research, On-Campus Employment, Community Service, Education Abroad, Internships, etc.
- Reflection- Interests, Skills, Values, Needs, Passions...
- Personal Initiative and Risk Taking





Year 1  
EXPLORE-DECIDE

Year 2  
EXPLORE-  
DECIDE-DECLARE

Year 3  
DECLARE

Year 4+  
GRADUATE



# Stay Connected...



# Opportunities to Explore...

Classes

Department Information Sessions

Work Experience

Internships

Student Organizations

Major Specific Organizations

Undergraduate Research

Academic Advising

Academic Websites

Volunteering





# Questions

University Advising

Dr. Ebony Green, Assistant Dean

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