The Exploratory Program, housed in the Department of Academic Advisement & Student Development, is intended for students who are unsure which major they want to pursue, or who may have narrowed down their options to a few possibilities but have not yet decided on a major.

In the Exploratory Program, students with undeclared majors can take general education courses that work toward requirements, while exploring majors until they find the right fit.

You can explore majors in a variety of ways: by taking general education courses or open electives in an area of interest, by doing “homework” on programs we offer and by doing self-assessment on what you want out of a college education.

As an Exploratory student, you will be assigned an academic advisor who is trained to work with students on course selection, campus involvement, student services and major exploration through student-directed assessment of strengths and interests.

WE’RE ON A MISSION

At Millersville, we’re here to encourage you to graduate on time while giving you the opportunity to explore a variety of interests to match your passions and skills with a major. The resources described here will help you do just that; they keep you on track and keep you motivated while satisfying your curiosity. Even though you may start as a first-year student unsure of what direction you may want to go, you will still be working toward your degree requirements while exploring your options. The program gives you flexibility to change direction if necessary. Entering college in the Exploratory Program doesn’t mean you’ll be here longer; it just means your path to graduation may be a little different, but just as fulfilling!

GENERAL EDUCATION

Whether you are a student in the Exploratory Program or one who has already declared a major, Millersville’s general education curriculum helps well-rounded individuals prepare for the real world. The aim of the general education curriculum is to cultivate students’ intellect to reason logically, to think critically, to express themselves clearly and to foster an understanding of the human condition and the role of value judgments in the human experience.

THE EXPLORATORY STUDENT SUPPORT SYSTEM

The Exploratory Program offers a wide variety of tools. You’ll have access to full administrative support through your advisor and the Exploratory Program faculty and staff. The Program’s comprehensive website gives you access to information about majors/requirements, general education, a GPA calculator and links to important University information. The University’s degree audit system, accessed via a student’s MYVILLE account, also has a “What If?” option that lets a student enter information about the credits they have earned and how it may apply to any Millersville major.

“Choosing a major is a process. The greater your investment, the greater your satisfaction.”

– Dr. David I. Henriques, director of Academic Advisement and Student Development
EXPLORATORY ADVISORS

In the Exploratory Program, there are advisors from across campus who will not only help you in exploring your options, but aid you in your college transition and in your success.

You and your advisor will get to know each other. Our advisors strive to know students individually and learn about their personal journey and unique interests, aptitudes and abilities. Advisors can be faculty, staff or administrators – and are a wealth of knowledge to help you with your transition at Millersville. Advisors take interest in their students’ experiences, achievements and accomplishments on campus. In short, your advisor won’t tell you what to do – rather, they will listen, make suggestions and guide you along the way.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING AND CAREER MANAGEMENT

The Experiential Learning and Career Management Office, located in the Bedford & Huntingdon Houses on George St. near the Student Memorial Center (SMC), is another valuable resource. Their team of professionals focus on your interests and the careers most closely related to those interests. They provide an integral service in exploring major and career options, including experience through a host of professional internships.

What can I do with this major?

Students can connect majors with careers by visiting: whatcanidowiththismajor.com/major. Learn about the typical career areas and the types of employers that hire people with each major, as well as strategies to make students more marketable candidates.

FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE

The First-Year Experience (FYE) at Millersville University helps first-year students transition from high school to University life.

Freshman-Year Seminar

The cornerstone of the FYE program is the UNIV 103 First-Year Inquiry Seminar. This seminar provides a first-semester home base for students, helping them build a foundation of life and college skills. First-year students select a seminar of interest to them. In the classroom, students engage in critical thinking, research and writing to exchange ideas and learn from one another. The FYE program extends beyond the classroom and includes peer mentors and faculty advisors, who serve in an informal and formal capacity. Students receive the guidance and support needed to lay a foundation for the future.

The essential questions of "What do I want to do?" and "Who am I?" are addressed side-by-side with life and learning skills, such as critical thinking, time management, leadership, study skills, research and writing.

The following are examples of First-Year Inquiry Seminars that have been offered:

• A Different View: How Can We Change the World?
• Biodiversity and the Sixth Great Extinction
• Homes and Homelessness
• Who am I?
• The Call of Service: A Force for Social Change
• The Search for an Identity: The Puerto Rican Experience
• Ethnic Studies: A Focus on African-American and Latino Experiences
• Scientific Revolution
• Political Engagement, Citizenship & Communication

Transfer Undeclared Students

The advisors in the Exploratory Program are well trained to work with Exploratory/Undeclared transfer students as well, no matter what community college or other university they may be coming from. Each transfer student has a different story, but our advisors, faculty and staff are here to aid with your transition into the Millersville community. From seeing how your transfer credits fit into our general education curriculum and exploring majors that would best use the credits you’ve completed at other schools, to general advisement and adapting to the different educational environment at Millersville compared to your other school(s), the Exploratory Program is geared to be a great resource for you.