

# EXPLORATORY



**UNIVERSITY COLLEGE** is an academic unit that houses a number of programs to help students achieve success at Kent State University. The staff fosters student academic success by providing extensive academic advising services, assisting undecided students with degree and career planning, and providing tutoring services that promote student learning.

## THE EXPLORATION PLAN

More than 600 new freshmen choose the exploratory major each year. The exploratory major is for students who are considering different majors or who are undecided about a major. Exploratory majors receive assistance through a guided Exploration Plan. The Exploration Plan is designed to guide each student through the exploration process by the time they reach 45 Kent State credit hours. The plan includes six key components that you will participate in including:

1. Selecting of the 13 area of interest (concentrations) to begin exploring.
2. Engaging in the First Year Experience (US 10097) which focuses on the transition to college and career exploration.
3. Enrolling in coursework related to the area(s) of interest.
4. Completing the Career Maturity Inventory and reviewing the results with your academic advisor.
5. Meeting with your academic advisor twice the first semester and at least once the remaining semester.
6. Enrolling in Career Navigation: *Constructing Possibilities* course during your second semester.

## WHAT IS A "CONCENTRATION?"

To assist Exploratory students in narrowing down their interests in preparation for declaring a degree-granting program, all Exploratory students are required to select one of the following interest areas:

- Aeronautics, Applied Engineering and Technology
- Biological Sciences, Health and Wellness
- Business
- Communication, Journalism and Media
- Computer, Mathematics and Information Sciences
- Design
- Education and Teaching
- Government, Public Policy and Justice
- Human Services and Social Sciences
- Languages, Literature and Culture
- Physical Sciences and the Environment
- Sport, Recreation and Hospitality
- Visual and Performing Arts

Students may revise their concentrations as new areas of interest are uncovered.

## WHAT IS THE EXPLORATORY ADVISING CENTER?

The **Exploratory Advising Center** (EAC) is the "academic home" for students in the exploratory major. **Academic advisors** for students in the exploratory major are located at the Exploratory Advising Center. Additionally, students can take advantage of numerous special programs and services offered through that unit.

- Freshmen are expected to attend at least two advising appointments each semester.
- Academic advisors assist students in making informed decisions as coursework is selected each semester.
- Referrals are made to offices on campus to ensure that special problems and needs of students are addressed.
- Various resources are available to assist students in learning more about themselves and degree programs that may be a good fit for them.

## HOW IS PROGRESS TOWARD GRADUATION ENSURED?

The goal of the academic advisors in the EAC is to assist students in developing career goals as they select coursework each semester. Their progress is followed carefully, and advisors make every effort to guide them in declaring a major while they accumulate credits toward graduation. Advisors also keep various program requirements in mind as they help students navigate through their first semesters of college study. Because students cannot earn a degree in the exploratory major, they are expected to declare a major by the time they have earned 45 hours of credit at Kent State University.

## Career Opportunities

**Leaders from business and industry often say that they hire graduates who have good skills in reading, writing, speaking, listening and reasoning. These basic skills, combined with leadership, ability to work productively with others and a broad understanding of many subjects, are necessary so that employers can focus on specific job training. The exploratory major aids students in acquiring the foundational skills and background needed in an ever-changing work environment.**

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## WHAT COURSES DO ADVISORS RECOMMEND FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE NOT READY TO COMMIT TO A MAJOR?

The two basic components in a baccalaureate degree are the Kent Core requirements, which are the focus of the exploratory major, and the academic major requirements.

**Kent Core** courses, which are required of all students, ensure breadth of knowledge and exposure to our vast intellectual heritage by challenging students to improve their:

- thinking and analytical skills;
- reading, writing, speaking and listening competencies;
- understanding of numerical data;
- historical consciousness;
- science understanding;
- value orientation;
- appreciation of the visual, performing and literary arts; and
- international and multicultural understanding.

**Academic major** courses add to the Kent Core component by providing in-depth knowledge and mastery of a field of study or of an interdisciplinary area. Majors are derived from building blocks of knowledge that lead to greater understanding and wisdom.

In most majors, the Kent Core and major components are integrally related. Certain Kent Core courses, such as mathematics or language, are required to complement and provide a foundation for coursework in the major.

## WHAT IS EXCEL AND HOW DOES IT BENEFIT EXPLORATORY STUDENTS?

The EXCEL (Explore, Careers, Education, Leadership) Living-Learning Community is the best residence hall option for our first year Exploratory students. EXCEL is designed specifically for students who are looking to:

- Find a major
- Explore different career opportunities
- Develop leadership skills
- Get involved with fellow students and the campus community

Located in Lake Hall at the center of campus, residents have access to classes, programs, events and resources geared towards first-year students and open to the entire Kent State community. Students have contact with a peer mentor and the entire EXCEL staff throughout the year to provide support and guidance. Additionally, EXCEL works closely with the Exploratory Advising Center and the Academic Success Center to offer advising and assistance to Exploratory students. Visit [www.kent.edu/excel](http://www.kent.edu/excel) or email [EXCEL@kent.edu](mailto:EXCEL@kent.edu) for more information and details on how to sign up for this exclusive opportunity.

## HOW DOES UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HELP TRANSFER AND NONTRADITIONAL STUDENTS, AND STUDENTS TRANSITIONING FROM A REGIONAL CAMPUS?

Transfer, nontraditional or Regional Campus transitioning students may also select the exploratory major. Services are provided to help students make smooth transitions to the new learning environment so that they have every opportunity to be academically successful.

Transfer, nontraditional or Regional Campus transitioning students also are encouraged to consider the exploratory major. Students will work with trained advisors to select courses and examine different options at Kent State University.

### Exploratory

University College  
Exploratory Advising Center  
Center for Undergraduate Excellence  
(Suite-169, Olson/Lake Center)  
330-672-3676  
[explore.kent.edu](http://explore.kent.edu)

### Admissions Office

Kent State University  
P.O. Box 5190  
Kent, OH 44242-0001  
330-672-2444  
1-800-988-KENT  
[www.kent.edu/admissions](http://www.kent.edu/admissions)

For information on all of Kent State's degrees and majors, go online to [www.kent.edu/gps](http://www.kent.edu/gps).