

UNDECLARED (NON-DEGREE)

Description

The Exploratory and Pre-Professional Advising Center (Explore Center) is the academic home for undeclared students. This includes students who are still deciding upon a major, transitioning between majors, or working on meeting the entrance requirements for a desired major. Undeclared is a non-degree granting program at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln and undeclared students are expected to transfer to one of the Nebraska undergraduate colleges when they have chosen an academic major and degree program.

Advising

Professional academic advisors in the Explore Center engage undeclared students in major exploration, degree planning, and academic course work selection. By working closely with all of the University's colleges, Explore Center advisors help students design a general academic plan for one or more semesters that will allow them to progress toward a degree while also exploring the variety of opportunities offered by the University. Explore Center advisors also connect students with campus resources that will help further their major exploration and assist them in achieving academic success. Undeclared students are encouraged to meet with a professional academic advisor in the Explore Center early in their first semester at UNL to discuss interest areas and to develop a plan for major exploration. It is recommended undeclared students continue to meet with an Explore Center advisor and attend Explore Center workshops until they declare a major. Additional information concerning major exploration can be found on the Explore Center website (<http://explorecenter.unl.edu/undecided>).

Professional academic advisors in the Explore Center are available for individual student meetings on a walk-in or appointment basis weekdays in 127 Love Library South. Undeclared students who have not yet chosen a major have an assigned Explore Center academic advisor but are welcome to meet with any advisor in the Explore Center. Students can find their assigned advisor through "My Success Network" in MyPLAN or in MyRED. For complete and current information on Explore Center academic advising visit <https://explorecenter.unl.edu/about/appointment> or contact the Explore Center by visiting 127 Love Library South or by calling 402-472-3605.

Major Declaration

Explore Center students can declare majors in any of the University's undergraduate colleges. To declare a major, Explore Center students must meet with an Explore Center advisor. Admission requirements to declare into certain colleges may apply. These requirements can be found on each college's respective catalog page (catalog.unl.edu). If you have questions about meeting colleges' academic requirements, see your Explore Center academic advisor.

COMPASS

The Explore Center's required COMPASS program for undeclared students at sophomore standing or above (27 or more earned credit hours) is designed to help students progress with their major exploration and declaration process.

- Students will meet one-on-one with an Explore Center academic advisor at the beginning of the semester and collaborate to develop a major exploration strategy.

- Major exploration strategies will include various action steps. These steps might include but are not limited to: visiting with a career counselor, completing a career assessment, attending an Explore Center event, job shadowing, or visiting with a major specific advisor. After the completion of these steps the student will meet again with an Explore Center advisor and reflect on their major exploration.
- A registration hold is placed on students' accounts for future terms that will be released after they have completed their major exploration plan or have declared a major.

Students will have the opportunity to work with the Explore Center for two semesters on their individualized COMPASS major exploration plan and may declare their major at any point during this time. During a student's third and final semester in the COMPASS program, the student will be required to declare a major before enrolling in future classes.

College Requirements

ACE Requirements

Consistent with the mission and values of the University, Achievement-Centered Education (ACE) is based on a shared set of four institutional objectives and 10 student learning outcomes. The ACE program was approved by faculty in all eight undergraduate colleges and endorsed by the Faculty Senate, the student government, and the Academic Planning Committee in January 2008 for implementation in fall 2009. ACE aligns with current national initiatives in general education.

Key characteristics of ACE that demonstrate the benefits of the program to students:

- Students receive a broad education with exposure to multiple disciplines, critical life skills and important reasoning, inquiry, and civic capacities.
- ACE is simple and transparent for students, faculty and advisors. Students complete the equivalent of 3 credit hours for each of the ten student learning outcomes.
- Students connect and integrate their ACE experiences with their selected major.
- Students can transfer all ACE certified courses across colleges within the institution to meet the ACE requirement and any course from outside the institution that is directly equivalent to a UNL ACE-certified course. Courses from outside institutions without direct equivalents may be considered with appropriate documentation for ACE credit (see academic advisor).

ACE allows faculty to assess and improve their effectiveness and facilitate students' learning.

ACE Institutional Objectives and Student Learning Outcomes

To meet the ACE program requirement, a student will complete the equivalent of 3 credit hours for each of the ten ACE Student Learning Outcomes (a total of 30 ACE credit hours). See the ACE website (<http://ace.unl.edu>) for the most current information and the most recently certified courses. Students should meet with an Explore Center advisor to discuss the planning and completion of ACE courses and requirements.