Academic Advising
Navigating the MSU Curriculum

New Student Orientation
ASSOCIATE PROVOST for UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION
Introduction to Academic Advising
Academic Advisors play an important role in your student’s success at MSU. They work within MSU policies and procedures to guide students through their academic journey to help them earn their degree.

They are professionals who…
- Fulfill many roles
- Support
- Serve as student advocates
- Guide through degree completion
- Introduce career opportunities and professional development
Who is my student’s academic advisor?

- **College/Major advisors**: automatically assigned by selecting a major

- **NSSC Advisors**: for Exploratory majors and students who need guidance around major changes

- **Honors Advisors**: for student admitted into the Honors College

*Tip: encourage your student to write down the name and contact information of an advisor they meet with during NSO.*
When will advising happen during NSO?

Advising & enrollment will take place over the next three days as students “attend” NSO.

Students will be provided instructions on how this will be organized, since every college may handle this process slightly differently. If your student has questions, they should connect with their college directly.

If your student plans to change their major, they will need to reach out to the advisor of the new major starting next week. They will meet with the advisor of their currently declared major during advising and enrollment. Any course enrollment changes necessary for the new major will occur next week. Students can reference their PRE-NSO modules on D2L for more info.
What advising is happening at NSO?

Discuss degree requirements and college specific information

Meet with an advisor & select courses

Enroll for spring semester using MSU Schedule Builder
Academic Advisor Expectations of Students @ NSO:

To have a mutually beneficial partnership with their Academic Advisor(s), students should also understand the expectations advisors have of them. Consider the following as you help your student prepare to meet with their Academic Advisor(s) during NSO:

• Encourage students to bring any questions written down – it’s easy to forget!

• Students should be prepared and open to discussing their interests, strengths, priorities and goals.

• Students should have completed all steps required by NSO and specific colleges or programs ahead of advising meeting. (pre-NSO modules, placement testing, etc)
• During their advising appointment, students should be in a place where they can have a private conversation free of distractions.

Please keep in mind that academic advising appointments are designed to meet the needs of students. If you have questions or concerns that you would like your student to address with their advisor, please prepare your student to ask the questions and encourage them to take notes so that they can share accurate information with you after the appointment.
Understanding Degree Requirements
All students need a minimum of **120 credits** to earn a degree and the credits will be made up of university, college, major and elective requirements.
MSU is home to 14 colleges that grant undergraduate degrees. Undergraduate students at Michigan State University may choose from more than 200 majors within these colleges. Specific degree information is available in the MSU Academic Programs Catalog or linked by college below.

- College of Agriculture and Natural Resources
- Residential College in the Arts and Humanities
- College of Arts and Letters
- The Eli Broad College of Business
- College of Communication Arts and Sciences
- College of Education
- College of Engineering
- James Madison College
- Lyman Briggs College
- College of Music
- College of Natural Science
- College of Nursing
- College of Social Science
- College of Veterinary Medicine

**Exploratory Preference - Neighborhood Student Success Collaborative (NSSC)**

*Students who have selected Exploratory Preference as their major will select a degree granting major by junior standing*
Reminders & Additional Resources
Post NSO Reminders

☐ Students should send final transcripts to MSU, if they have not done so already.

☐ Students should double check that AP/CLEP/IB scores were sent to MSU.

☐ Enrollment will open for all students at their NSO advising appointment. It is recommended that students discuss any significant changes with an advisor (minor changes like swapping sections of the same class are generally fine).

☐ Please encourage your student to check their MSU email account regularly. This is the official method of communication for the university and students will miss important information if they are not checking their account on a regular basis (daily).

☐ Encourage your student to meet regularly (at least once per year) with their advisor and to reach out if they are feeling overwhelmed, confused or need help.