



Academic Advising Center's

# First Year Advising Handbook



Northern Illinois  
University

*Your Future. Our Focus.*



# The Academic Advising Center

The AAC provides a variety of services to help students achieve their personal, academic and career goals at NIU. We advise students with the majors of “Undecided-Any College”, “Undecided-Liberal Arts and Sciences”, “freshmen” and students majoring in Pre-professional Health Fields. We guide students as they develop meaningful academic plans compatible with their educational and life goals.

**Our academic advising focus** is on students **exploring majors**, students **seeking alternative majors** and students **reassessing their current academic situation**. Finally, we support the distinct nature of advising within the colleges and academic departments at NIU.

## Meet the Staff

**Michelle Pickett**  
Director

**LaBrian Carrington**  
Acting Associate Director

**Keyalo Gray**  
Pre-professional Health Fields Advisor

**Cathy Dancey**  
Office Support Specialist



Academic Advising Center's

# First Year Advising Handbook

Understanding the Nature of Advising.....	2
The Advising Partnership.....	3
How Does the Major Selection Process Work?.....	4
Pre-professional Health Advising .....	5
Exploratory Tracks .....	6
Developing Your First Semester Schedule.....	7
University Requirements.....	8
General Education Requirements .....	9
Majors of Undergraduate Study.....	10
Major Exploration Exercises .....	11
Campus Map.....	Inside Back Cover



**Northern Illinois  
University**

*Your Future. Our Focus.*

# Understanding the Nature of Advising

## First Year Advising Handbook

Welcome to Northern Illinois University and to the Academic Advising Center. We prepared this packet of valuable information in order to give you:

- A better understanding of the role that academic advising plays in student success.
- An introduction to the new academic and personal responsibilities you've accepted.
- More knowledge about how the major selection process works.

We encourage you to:

- Read through the material.
- Complete the Major Exploration Exercises.
- Bring this folder to each of your advising meetings to stay organized and track your progress in completing university requirements.

AAC assists students with:

- Withdrawal from a course.
- Major Exploration.
- Withdrawal from the university.
- Academic probation advisement.
- Third-time course attempts.
- Concurrent enrollment approval.
- Overloads (semester course load over 18 hours).
- Add/drop of classes.

Some questions we can answer:

- How do I find a major?
- Who can help me clarify my academic, career and personal goals?
- What are major and/or career options related to my interests, values and goals?
- What can I do with the major I have chosen?
- What are the university's general education requirements?
- What are some introductory courses that would assist me in exploring possible majors or fields of study?
- What's the difference between a B.A. and a B.S. degree?
- What minors would complement my major?
- What can I do to enhance my academic program?
- How can I make adjustments to my schedule?
- What are the implications of academic warning, probation or dismissal?
- Who do I contact if I have a question about an academic rule or regulation?
- Where do I find specific campus resources I need?

### Advising Objectives and Outcomes for First-year Students

Arrange advising meetings each semester prior to your MyNIU enrollment appointment to review course planning for the upcoming semester.

Develop short- and long-range personal, academic and career goals. Make time to discuss this process with your advisor.

Focus on completion of your Foundational Studies and Knowledge Domains classes; strengthening your writing, math and critical thinking skills.

Use multiple resources to maximize your undergraduate experience (advisors, faculty, student clubs and organizations, community service, leadership opportunities, volunteering, etc.).

Visit the Career Services Office. Learn about the ways you can explore interpersonal factors (interests, personality, values) related to your academic and career goals.

Get to know your professors. It's both a good way to find out what the different majors are really about and to begin building important collegial relationships.

Know the degree requirements, responsibilities and university policies that apply to you.

# The Advising Partnership

A key aspect of academic advising is relationship building for student success. Our goal is for you to develop a positive relationship with your advisor. The first step in developing this relationship is understanding each person's role and responsibilities. The chart below outlines each party's role in developing a successful advising partnership. We look forward to working with you this year.

Academic Advisor	Student	Parent/Guardian
Monitor student progress and guide you toward academic success.	Responsible for learning and understanding.	Be available to support and encourage.
Help you understand your responsibilities toward academic success.	Monitor your own academic progress.	Maintain regular contact.
Act as a liaison between you and NIU.	Know the degree requirements of the college and major of interest.	Offer advice (as needed and when appropriate).
Act as your advocate.	Communicate with the advisor regarding issues and/or concerns about academics or student life.	Encourage students to do things they can do for themselves.
Refer you to appropriate institutional resources.	Attend classes.	Allow students to make mistakes in this safe environment.
	Manage time for class preparation.	
	Become familiar with university resources.	
	Understand and adhere to university policies.	

Adapted from Menezes, M. D. (2005). Advisors and parents: Together building stronger advising relationships. Retrieved from the NACADA Clearinghouse of Academic Advising Resources website.



# How Does the Major Selection Process Work?

The selection of the right major for you is a continuous, decision-making process. The best way to ensure the right choice is to do some investigative homework. This process involves exploring in a number of different ways. First, be aware of all the major choices available to you here at NIU. (See the complete listing of majors of undergraduate study on Page 10 and exploratory tracks on Page 6).

**Some important ways of exploring and confirming your choice may include:**

✓ **Using tools and information on the internet.**

- Academic Advising Center ([go.niu.edu/aac](http://go.niu.edu/aac)).
- Four Year Degree Paths ([go.niu.edu/degreepaths](http://go.niu.edu/degreepaths)).
- Career Services ([go.niu.edu/career-services](http://go.niu.edu/career-services)).
- Academic Colleges ([niu.edu/academics/departments.shtml](http://niu.edu/academics/departments.shtml)).
- Occupational Outlook Handbook ([bls.gov.ooh/](http://bls.gov.ooh/)).

✓ **Attending the Majors and Minors Fair.**

- ✓ **Talking with your professors, especially in courses you enjoy.**
- ✓ **Talking with other students in majors you are considering.**
- ✓ **Talking with individuals in careers that interest you.**

Seek out job shadowing opportunities.

Interview extended family members about their career paths.

✓ **Working a part-time job related to a possible career goal.**

✓ **Volunteering in activities and organizations related to an area of interest.**





# Pre-professional Health Advising

Undergraduate pre-medical and pre-professional health studies at Northern Illinois University prepare students for a broad range of master's and doctoral level health career possibilities including medicine, pharmacy, dentistry, optometry, podiatry and veterinary medicine.

The overarching mission of pre-professional health advising is to support students throughout their undergraduate academic careers so they can realize their potential and achieve their life goals of becoming medical professionals. The role of the pre-professional health advisor is to provide guidance and support in developing a plan to best prepare students for professional school studies within the areas of medicine.

The fundamental approach centers on an educational partnership with students to facilitate professionalism, competent decision-making, accountability and leadership. A strong relationship with an advisor is crucial for a student to be able to persist toward achieving academic and career success. As students embark on this journey, the pre-professional health advisor will connect students with resources and assist in making informed decisions. The advisor offers support with:

- Identifying areas of interest and prospective majors.
- Exploring career pathways within the areas of medicine.
- Career preparation and skills development.
- Streamlining and navigating the application and admissions process.

Pre-professional health programs are areas of interest, not degree programs. Typically, student's complete math and science courses required by professional schools in degree areas such as biology, chemistry, psychology or related programs. All course requirements for the professional school's admissions criteria must be satisfied

In addition to meeting with the pre-professional health advisor, students should also meet with their college and/or departmental academic advisor at least once per semester. This will ensure that they are taking courses in the proper sequence to meet graduation requirements.

# Exploratory Tracks

**Bolded majors are emphases within majors**  
(with the majors in parentheses).

## Administration and Management

- Accountancy
- Business Administration
- Entrepreneurship and Social Responsibility** (Management)
- Finance
- Fashion Merchandising
- Health Administration** (Public Health)
- Hospitality and Tourism Management** (Business Administration)
- Human Resource Management** (Management)
- Leadership and Management** (Management)
- Marketing
- Operations and Information Management
- Public Administration and Service** (Political Science)
- Sports Management

## Behavioral and Social Sciences

- Anthropology
- Child Development** (Human Development and Family Services)
- Early Childhood Education
- Economics
- Elementary Education
- Family Relations, Prevention and Wellness** (Human Development and Family Services)
- Family Social Services** (Human Development and Family Services)
- Geography
- History
- Nonprofit and NGO Studies
- Middle Level Teaching and Learning
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Public Service Leadership
- Special Education
- Sociology
- Pre-law\**

## Engineering, Technology and Physical Sciences

- Advanced Computing and Simulation** (Mechanical Engineering)
- Actuarial Sciences
- Applied Manufacturing Technology** (Engineering Technology)
- Biological Sciences
- Biomedical Engineering
- Chemistry
- Computational Software** (Computer Science)
- Computer Science
- Electrical Engineering
- Electrical Engineering Technology** (Engineering Technology)
- Energy and Environmental Technology** (Technology)
- Engineering Management** (Industrial Engineering)
- Enterprise Software** (Computer Science)
- Environmental Studies
- Geology and Environmental Geosciences
- Health Systems Engineering** (Industrial Engineering)
- Industrial and Systems Engineering
- Industrial Management and Technology** (Technology)
- Manufacturing Engineering Technology** (Technology)
- Manufacturing Systems** (Industrial Engineering)
- Mathematical Sciences
- Robotics and Controls** (Mechanical Engineering)
- Mechatronics Engineering
- Meteorology
- Physics
- Software Development** (Computer Science)
- Statistics
- Sustainable Energy** (Mechanical Engineering)
- Pre-dentistry; Pre-medicine;  
Pre-optometry; Pre-pharmacy;  
Pre-veterinary medicine\*

## Health and Life Sciences

- Communicative Disorders
- Environment and Health** (Public Health)
- General Public Health** (Public Health)
- Health Promotion** (Public Health)
- Health Sciences
- Kinesiology
- Medical Laboratory Sciences
- Nursing
- Nutrition, Dietetics and Wellness
- Pre-physical Therapy** (Health Sciences)
- Physical Education
- Rehabilitation and Disability Services

## Humanities and Fine Arts

- Acting** (Theatre Arts)
- Advocacy and Public Communication** (Communication Studies)
- Art
- Art Design and Education
- Art History and Visual Studies
- Art Studio** (Art Studio and Design)
- Composition (Music)
- Dance Performance
- Design and Media Arts** (Art Studio and Design)
- Design and Technology (Theatre Arts)
- English
- French and Francophone Studies** (World Languages and Cultures)
- German Studies** (World Languages and Cultures)
- Journalism
- Media Studies** (Communication Studies)
- Music
- Music Education (Music)
- Organizational/Corporate Communication** (Communication Studies)
- Performance (Music)
- Philosophy
- Spanish and Hispanic Studies** (World Languages and Cultures)
- Theatre Studies

\*Pre-professional programs are not majors.

## Exploratory Tracks in Which You Have an Interest

---



---



---



---



# Developing Your First Semester Schedule

A typical first semester schedule can look considerably different depending upon you and your major. As a broad guideline, most students enroll in between 13 and 16 credit hours.

(**TIP:** Twelve credit hours is minimum, full-time status).

The **most important factor** to remember as you plan your first term is **your GPA**. Your cumulative GPA may determine whether you can pursue a particular major. Many programs at NIU are **limited admission with GPA being the key factor to admission**.

*As you prepare to register for your first semester, we strongly recommend that you ask yourself some key questions:*

1. Do you have any pending **Advanced Placement (AP), College-level Examination Program (CLEP) Credit** or **dual credit**?
2. Do you have any **transfer credit** or are you enrolled in any classes this summer at a community college?
3. What **NIU placement evaluations** have you taken? (foundational studies requirements, sciences and foreign languages.)
4. Are you considering a particular major or do you have a few in mind?

## Registration Tips

- ✓ Meet with an advisor **before** registering.
  - Not just today — but each and every semester.
- ✓ Remember to avoid time conflicts.
- ✓ Most classes do not meet each day of the week.
- ✓ Classes that meet twice per week are typically longer than those that meet three times per week.
- ✓ Most math classes require a “recitation” outside of the lecture course time.
- ✓ Be aware of the location and time of your classes. Give yourself ample time to travel to/from each academic building.
- ✓ Become familiar with MyNIU.

## Other Courses to Consider

**UNIV 101 (University Experience)\*** and **UNIV 201 (The Transfer Experience)** provide an invaluable introduction to Northern Illinois University. These elective, one-credit, 12-week courses are designed to help you adjust to NIU and develop the skills necessary to succeed in college and beyond.

\* For selected students.

**COUN 211** is an undergraduate course which presents career development and career decision-making as lifelong processes. Career planning focuses on the relationship of individuals to their work. Throughout the course, you are provided hands-on opportunities to practice decision-making and application of learned skills to personal, academic and career planning.

# University Requirements

Developing your first semester schedule includes understanding university graduation requirements and possible majors of interest. Most first-semester schedules will consist of courses within NIU foundational studies and knowledge domains requirements.

Your schedule can vary greatly due to the following factors: Intended major, placement evaluations or equivalency exams. As we work with you, many considerations go into course planning and registration.

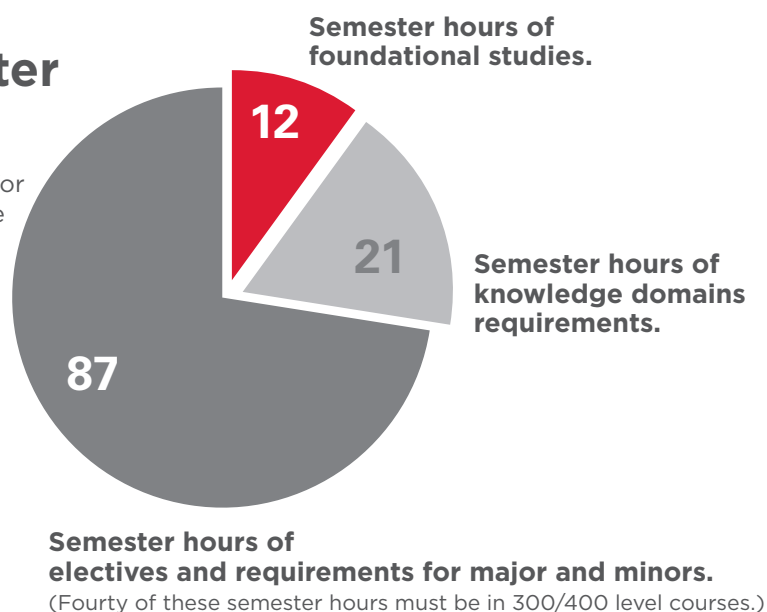
AAC Advisors:

- Identify appropriate general education courses that complement your major(s) of interest.
- Identify general education courses that assist in the major exploration process.
- Identify and ensure your schedule meets university general education requirements.

## Basic Graduation Requirements

**120 total semester hours**

(minimum requirement for baccalaureate degree).



## Sample First Year Undecided Major Schedule

First Semester Schedule

COURSE DEPT and NUMBER	Credit Hours
COMS 100 (Foundational Studies)	3
ENGL 103 (Foundational Studies)	3
MATH 110*	3
General Education Course	3
General Education Course	1
UNIV 101 <sup>†</sup> (Elective)	16
<b>Total credit hours</b>	<b>16</b>

Second Semester Schedule

COURSE DEPT and NUMBER	Credit Hours
ENGL 203 (Foundational Studies)	3
MATH 211* (Core Competency)	4
General Education Course	3
General Education Course	3
CAHC 211 (Elective)	3
<b>Total credit hours</b>	<b>16</b>

\* A student's math course requirements are based upon placement test results and academic interests. Your academic advisor will help you choose the appropriate math course.

<sup>†</sup> UNIV 101 is only for selected students.

# General Education Requirements

21-33 Semester Hours

## Foundational Studies

Class	Hours/Grade
COMS 100	
ENGL 103*	
ENGL 203A,B,C,D* or 204	
Appropriate MATH <sup>†</sup> MATH 101 or "C" or better in MATH 155, 201 <sup>‡</sup> , 206, 210, 211, 229, (or MATH 110 + STAT 100, STAT 300, ISYE 335)	

## Knowledge Domains (Minimum of 21 Semester Hours)

A variety of courses must be taken in each the four categories below.

**CREATIVITY and CRITICAL ANALYSIS**  
(Six semester hours.)  
No more than six hours in any one department.

Class	Hours/Grade

### CREATIVITY and CRITICAL ANALYSIS COURSE CHOICES

ANTH 102, 210; ARTH 282, 292, 294, 340, 350, 362; COMS 203, 220, 230, 310, 356, 480; ENGL 110, 115, 116, 117, 271, 310, 315, 340, 350, 361; EPFE 321, 400, 410; EPS 300, 430, ETT 231, FLFR 371, FLIT 272, FLRU 361; FSMD 262; HIST 110, 112, 140, 141, 170, 171, 260, 261, 352, 369, 383; JOUR 210, 350; HON 300, 400, 410; KNPE 393; LATS 100, 101; LESM 152; LTRE 190, 191, 192, 193, 194; MDST 225; MEE 382; MGMT 227, 311, 327; MUHL 220, 221, 222, 223; PHIL 101, 103, 105, 251; POLS 150, 251; SESE 320; TH-D 222, 474; THEA 203, 370, 379; UBUS 110; WGSS 202

**NATURE and TECHNOLOGY**  
(Six semester hours.)  
No more than six hours in any one department.

Class	Hours/Grade

### NATURE and TECHNOLOGY COURSE CHOICES

ANTH 103, 240; ARTH 331; BIOS 103, 105\*, 106, 107, 109; CHEM 100, 110+111\*, 210+212\*, 211+213\*; CSCI 205; ELE 100; ENVS 210; ETR 450; ETT 234; GEOG 101, 105, 253, 303; GEOL 101,103, 104, 105, 120+121\*, 303+304; HIST 323, 377; HON 300,400,410; ILAS 261; ISYE 100, 250(2), 420; KNPE 100; MEE 101; NUTR 201; OMIS 259; PHIL 205; PHYS 150, 151\*, 162, 180+181\*, 210 (4), 211 (4), 253(4), 273(4); PSYC 345, 481; TECH 231, 245, 294 \* Denotes (1) credit hour lab

**SOCIETY and CULTURE**  
(Six semester hours.)  
No more than six hours in one department.

Class	Hours/Grade

### SOCIETY and CULTURE COURSE CHOICES

ANTH 104, 105, 120, 220, 230, 302, 465; ART 465; ARTE 109, ARTH 310, 320, 330, 360, 361, 370, 380; BIOS 324X; BKST 200, 211, 219, 250X, 300, 440 ; COMD 220, 260; COMS 240, 362, 403, 410; ECON 160, 186, 260, 261; ENGL 318; ENVS 303, 361; EPFE 201, 355, 440; EPS 307; ETR 451; ETT 211, 329; FINA 315; FLBU 482; GEOG 202, 204, 256, 324X; HDFS 207, 230, 280; HIST 343, 349, 355, 361,364, 365, 381, 382, 386, 388; HON 300, 400, 410; ILAS 225; IVPA 201; JOUR 260X; KNPE 111, 305, 310; LESM 365; MGMT 417; MUHL 431; NNGO 100; NUTR 406; PHHE 206, 295, 315; PHIL 336; POLS 100, 210, 220, 260, 285, PSPA 220X; PSYC 102, 225, 245; REHB 200, 300; SCL 100, 200; SEAS 225; SEEC 201; SEVI 205; SOCI 170, 250, 260, 270, 354; WGSS 101, 201, 324, 350

**ELECTIVES**  
(Three semester hours.)

Class	Hours/Grade

\* ENG 204 may be taken in lieu of ENGL 103 and 203 (placement test through NIU Testing Services required for ENGL 204). See catalog for other exceptions.

<sup>†</sup> See "Foundational Studies Requirements" in the catalog for complete math requirements. In most cases your major determines the appropriate math course.

<sup>‡</sup> MATH 201 is restricted to elementary education, special education, early childhood and child development majors.

<sup>§</sup> Denotes lab for preceding class.

# Majors of Undergraduate Study

## DIRECTIONS:

Highlight programs you want to know more about and cross out programs that you know you are not interested in.

### College of Business

Accountancy (B.S.)  
 Business Administration (B.S.)  
 -Hospitality and Tourism Management  
 Finance (B.S.)  
 Management (B.S.)  
 -Entrepreneurship and Social Responsibility  
 -Human Resource Management  
 -Leadership and Management  
 Marketing (B.S.)  
 Operations and Information Management (B.S.)

### College of Education

Applied Management (B.S.)  
 (Department of Educational Technology, Research and Assessment)  
 -Equity Leadership and Mentoring  
 -Instructional Technology, Training and Evaluation  
 Early Childhood Education (B.S.)  
 -PEL with Early Childhood Education Endorsement and Preschool Special Education Approval (SEED)  
 Elementary Education (B.S.Ed.)  
 -Bilingual/ESL  
 -Early Childhood Education  
 -Early Childhood Education with Special Education Approval  
 -Elementary Mathematics Education  
 -Reading Teacher  
 -Special Education  
 Kinesiology (B.S.)  
 Middle Level Teaching and Learning (B.S.Ed.)  
 Physical Education (B.S.Ed.)  
 Special Education (B.S.Ed.)  
 -Learning Behavior Specialist I with PEL  
 -Special Populations  
 -Vision Rehabilitation Therapy  
 -Visual Impairments with PEL  
 Sport Management (B.S.)

### College of Engineering and Engineering Technology

Biomedical Engineering (B.S.)  
 -Biomaterials and Biomechanics  
 -Biomedical Instrumentation, Sensors and Signal Processing  
 Electrical Engineering (B.S.)  
 Engineering Technology (B.S.)  
 -Applied Manufacturing Technology  
 -Electrical Engineering Technology  
 -Energy and Environmental Engineering Technology  
 -Industrial Management and Technology  
 -Manufacturing Engineering Technology

Industrial and Systems Engineering (B.S.)  
 -Engineering Management  
 -Health Systems Engineering  
 -Manufacturing Systems  
 Mechanical Engineering (B.S.)  
 -Advanced Computing and Simulation  
 -Robotics and Controls  
 -Sustainable Energy  
 Mechatronics Engineering (B.S.)

### College of Health and Human Sciences

Communicative Disorders (B.S.)  
 -Speech-Language Pathology/Audiology  
 Fashion Merchandising (B.S.)  
 Health Sciences (B.S.)  
 -Degree Completion  
 -General  
 -Pre-physical Therapy  
 Human Development and Family Sciences, Comprehensive Major (B.S.)  
 -Child Development  
 -Family Relations, Prevention and Wellness  
 -Family Social Services  
 Medical Laboratory Sciences (B.S.)  
 Nursing (B.S.)  
 Nutrition, Dietetics and Wellness (B.S.)  
 Public Health (B.S.)  
 -Environment and Health  
 -General Public Health  
 -Health Administration  
 -Health Promotion  
 Rehabilitation and Disability Services (B.S.)

### College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Actuarial Science (B.S.)  
 Anthropology (B.A. or B.S.)  
 -Environment and Evolution  
 -General Anthropology  
 -Language, Culture and Mind  
 -Social Complexity and Inequality  
 Bachelor of General Studies (B.G.S.)  
 Biological Sciences (B.S.)  
 Chemistry (B.S.)  
 -Biochemistry  
 -Chemistry  
 -Chemistry for Pre-professional Students  
 -Secondary Teaching  
 Communication Studies (B.A. or B.S.)  
 -Advocacy and Public Communication  
 -Media Studies  
 -Organizational/Corporate Communication  
 Computer Science (B.S.)  
 -Computational Software  
 -Enterprise Software  
 -Software Development

Economics (B.A. or B.S.)  
 -Financial Economics (B.S. only)  
 English (B.A. or B.S.)  
 -English Studies in Literature, Language and Film  
 -English Studies in Writing  
 -English Studies Leading to Secondary Licensure in English Language Arts  
 Environmental Studies (B.A. or B.S.)  
 -Biodiversity and Environmental Restoration  
 -Educator Licensure — Environmental Science  
 -Energy Studies  
 -Environmental Policy  
 -Nature in Society  
 -Sustainable Food Systems  
 -Water Sciences  
 Geography (B.A. or B.S.)  
 Geology and Environmental Geosciences (B.S.)  
 -Earth and Space Science Education  
 -Environmental Geosciences  
 -Geology  
 History (B.A. or B.S.)  
 Journalism (B.A. or B.S.)  
 Mathematical Sciences (B.S.)  
 -Applied Mathematics  
 -Computational Mathematics  
 -General Mathematics  
 -Mathematics Education  
 Meteorology (B.S.)  
 Nonprofit and NGO Studies (B.A. or B.S.)  
 Philosophy (B.A. or B.S.)  
 Physics (B.S.)  
 -Applied Physics  
 -Professional Physics for Graduate Study  
 -Secondary School Teaching  
 Political Science (B.A. or B.S.)  
 -International Politics  
 -Justice and Democracy: The American Experiment  
 -Politics and Governance  
 -Public Administration and Service  
 -Public Law  
 Psychology (B.A. or B.S.)  
 Public Service Leadership (B.S.)  
 (School of Public and Global Affairs)  
 Sociology (B.A. or B.S.)  
 -Criminology  
 -General Sociology  
 Statistics (B.S.)  
 Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies (B.A. or B.S.)  
 World Languages and Cultures (B.A.)  
 -French and Francophone Studies  
 -German Studies  
 -Spanish and Hispanic Studies

### College of Visual and Performing Arts

Art (B.A. or B.S.)  
 Art and Design Education (B.S.Ed.)  
 Art History and Visual Studies (B.A.)  
 Art Studio and Design (B.F.A.)  
 -Art Studio  
 Ceramics  
 Drawing  
 Fiber  
 Illustration  
 Metalwork, Jewelry Design and Digital Fabrication  
 Painting  
 Printmaking  
 Sculpture  
 -Design and Media Arts  
 Photography  
 Time Arts  
 Visual Communication  
 Dance Performance (B.F.A.)  
 Music (B.A.)  
 Music (B.M.)  
 -Composition  
 -Music Education  
 -Performance  
 Theatre Arts (B.F.A.)  
 -Acting  
 -Design and Technology  
 Theatre Studies (B.A.)

### Pre-professional Studies

Combined Degree Program in Physics and Engineering  
 Pre-dentistry  
 Pre-law  
 Pre-medicine  
 Pre-optometry  
 Pre-pharmacy  
 Pre-veterinary medicine

# Major Exploration Exercises

**Some students have majors in mind that they want to explore:**

"I am thinking about psychology or family and child studies."  
 "I am considering communication studies or marketing."  
 "I want to learn more about physics or electrical engineering."  
 "I am looking at elementary or health education."

**Some students have particular skills or interests that they don't automatically connect to specific majors/careers:**

"I really like sports/athletics."  
 "I want to work with people who have disabilities."  
 "I'm good at working with my hands."

**Some students have careers in mind but don't know what majors get them there:**

"I know that I want to be a high school counselor."  
 "I'm really interested in becoming a lawyer."  
 "I want to own a business."

Majors that I have considered or that others have suggested are:

---

**Complete these sentences:**

People say I am good at...

---

If I had one million dollars, I would...

---

I am passionate about...

---

If I started a business or organization to solve a need or provide a service, it would be...

---

**When choosing a major, ask yourself:**

What will be the primary purpose of the major?

---

What kinds of skills will the major emphasize?

---

What careers might this major lead to in the future?

---

Is this a major field in which I think I can perform well?

---

## Creating a "Short List"

Once you have spent some time reviewing the possible majors/minors, you are now in a much better position to identify some majors of interest and eliminate others. Knowing what you will not enjoy is just as important as knowing what you will enjoy!

**Majors/Minors *VERY INTERESTED***

**Majors/Minors *MORE INFORMATION***

**Majors/Minors *ELIMINATE***

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



---

---

---

---

---

---

---



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# Exploratory Questionnaire

	Yes	No	I think I might enjoy studying:
1.			writing or literature
2.			math
3.			science
4.			technology or computers
5.			art, design or architecture
6.			music or performing arts
7.			business
8.			medical or health specialties
9.			teaching
10.			politics, law or criminal justice
11.			philosophy, history or classics
12.			languages or cultures
13.			communication
14.			social sciences and social service (psychology, sociology etc.)
15.			engineering
16.			construction or building trades

	Yes	No	I think I might enjoy doing the following types of work:
17.			providing assistance or services to help people
18.			mechanical, electrical or computer technologies
19.			work with numbers or data
20.			criminal or legal work
21.			construction, facilities or architecture
22.			creative arts or culinary arts
23.			managing or directing
24.			medicine, nursing, or health care
25.			teaching or education
26.			politics or advocating
27.			community services
28.			writing
29.			organization or planning
30.			counseling
31.			designing systems or equipment

**32. The following statement most represents what I'm thinking about CAREERS after college:**

- A. I am very decided about what I would like to do for a career after college.
- B. I am interested in one career, but want to check out my other options as well.
- C. I am interested in multiple careers, but am having trouble choosing between them.
- D. I know exactly what I would like to do as a career, but haven't identified a major yet.

**33. The following statement most represents what I'm thinking about MAJORS of study:**

- A. I am very undecided about what I would like to study.
- B. I am interested in one major, but want to check out my other options as well.
- C. I am interested in multiple majors, but am having trouble choosing between them.
- D. I know exactly what I would like to study, but have not yet been admitted to this program.

**If you marked something other than "A" on questions 32 and 33, then please list any option(s) you are considering for majors or careers:**

---



---



---



---



---



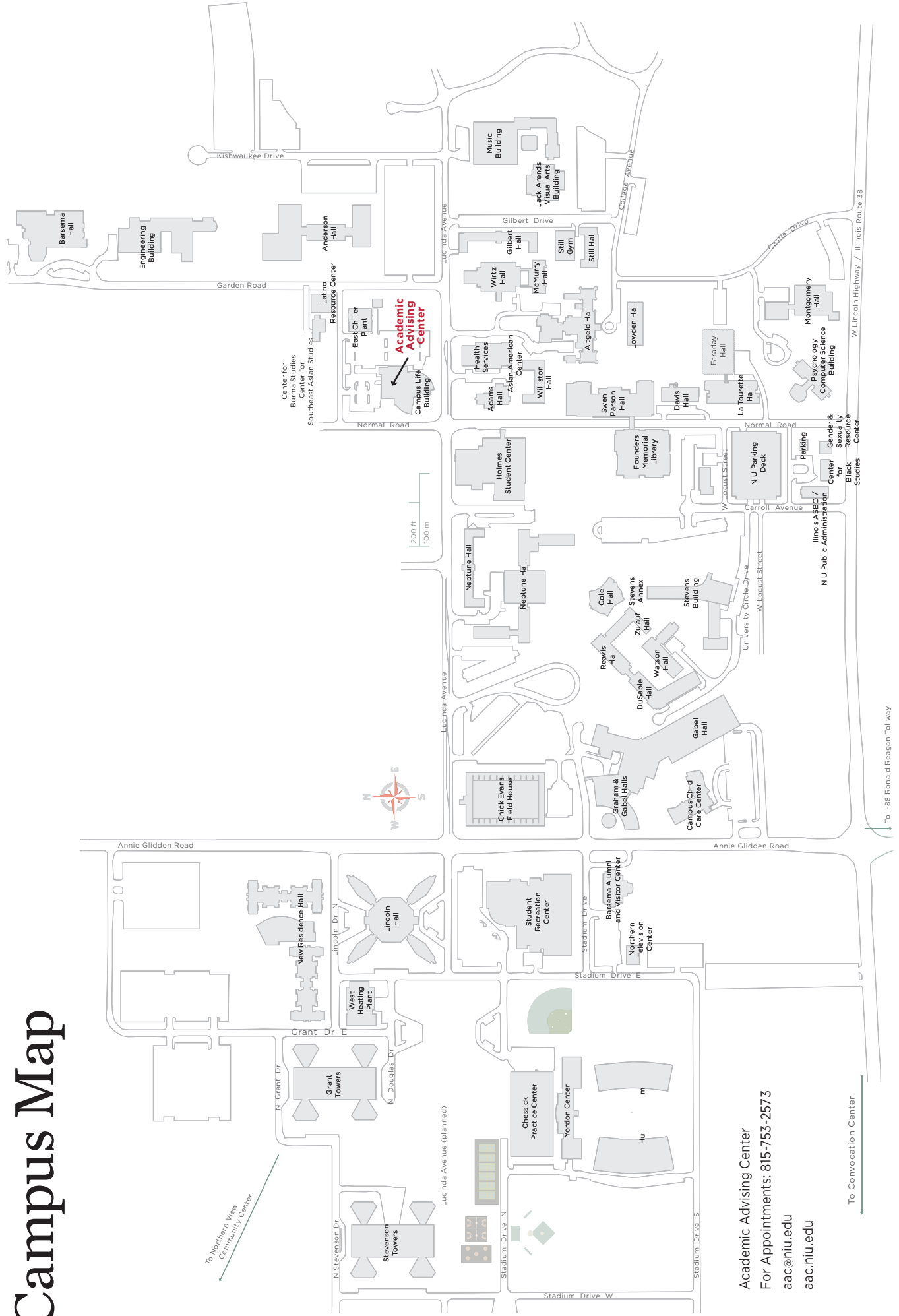
---



---

Adapted from the Center for Exploratory Studies and McMicken College of Arts and Sciences, University of Cincinnati

# Campus Map



Academic Advising Center  
 For Appointments: 815-753-2573  
[aac@niu.edu](mailto:aac@niu.edu)  
[aac.niu.edu](http://aac.niu.edu)

To Convocation Center

To I-88 Ronald Reagan Tollway



The First Year Advising Handbook is a packet of valuable information that will give you a better understanding of the role that academic advising plays in your success, an introduction to the new academic and personal responsibilities you have accepted and more knowledge about how the major-selection process works.



**Northern Illinois University**  
*Your Future. Our Focus.*

Academic Advising Center

Northern Illinois University | DeKalb, Illinois 60115 | For Appointments: 815-753-2573 | [aac@niu.edu](mailto:aac@niu.edu) | [aac.niu.edu](http://aac.niu.edu)