Major Exploration

for

Pre-Nursing Students

Research suggests 70% of college students change majors before they graduate. Minnesota State University, Mankato offers more than 130 undergraduate programs of study, and a variety of resources to help you find the best fit. Now is the time to start gathering information and explore your opportunities!

Start by listening to other students’ exploration stories [http://www.mnsu.edu/newstudent/choosing_majors.html](http://www.mnsu.edu/newstudent/choosing_majors.html)

**SELF-AWARENESS**

Make a commitment to find more about yourself and keep a record of what you discover. Learn about your unique interests, values, abilities, personality characteristics, and lifestyle requirements to find the best major/career match. This information can be obtained through discussions with professors and advisors, career testing, counseling, self-assessments, along with job, classroom and life experiences.

*Where do I start?*

- Take Career Assessments. The FOCUS is FREE! [http://www.mnsu.edu/cdc/assess/](http://www.mnsu.edu/cdc/assess/)
- Visit with a counselor in the Career Development Center [http://www.mnsu.edu/cdc/](http://www.mnsu.edu/cdc/)

**UNIVERSITY MAJORS**

The University catalog and website provide information on academic majors, program descriptions, curriculum and career related information. Academic advisors are available to discuss these options and may recommend courses that give the opportunity to “sample” programs, or advisement on how current coursework will align.

*Where do I start?*

- Review the Undergraduate Catalog
- Research academic departments and programs [http://www.mnsu.edu/programs/](http://www.mnsu.edu/programs/)
- Learn more by clicking, What can I do with this major? [http://www.mnsu.edu/cdc/majors/](http://www.mnsu.edu/cdc/majors/)
- Meet with an academic advisor. See back page for office locations and appointment scheduling.

**OCCUPATIONAL INFORMATION**

Information about occupations can be found in books and career files in the Career Development Center; internship/employment experiences; volunteer/community service experiences; attending career or job fairs, talking to professors or people who work in the field by conducting informational interviews; and online information sites.

*Where do I start?*

- Visit with a counselor in the Career Development Center [http://www.mnsu.edu/cdc/](http://www.mnsu.edu/cdc/)
NACE Job Outlook Survey
No matter what major you select, here are the top 10 attributes employers want to see on college graduates’ resumes. These transferable skills can be developed through any major.

1. Leadership
2. Ability to work in a team
3. Communication skills (written)
4. Problem-solving skills
5. Communication skills (verbal)
6. Strong work ethic
7. Initiative
8. Analytical/quantitative skills
9. Flexibility/adaptability
10. Technical skills

Source: Job Outlook 2016, National Association of Colleges and Employers

Most Common Majors
As pre-nursing students complete coursework and become more self-aware, they may choose to pursue other majors that still align with their interests, abilities and career goals. Here are the most common majors former pre-nursing students go on to successfully pursue.

- Accounting
- Biology
- Business Management
- Communication Disorders
- Communication Studies
- Community Health Education
- Corrections
- Elementary Education
- Exercise Science
- Family Consumer Science
- Finance
- Law Enforcement
- Marketing
- Psychology
- Recreation, Parks & Leisure Services
- Social Work
- Sport Management

RESOURCES

Career Development Center
209 Wigley Administration
Phone: 507-389-6061
Office Hours:
Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm
Drop-in Appointments
Monday-Friday 1:00pm-4:00pm
http://www.mnsu.edu/cdc/

College of Allied Health & Nursing
Advising Office: Myers Field House 124
Appointments: 507-389-6315
http://ahn.mnsu.edu/advising/

College of Arts & Humanities
Advising Office: Armstrong Hall 226
Appointments: 507-389-1712
http://www.mnsu.edu/carts/advising/

College of Business
Advising Office: Morris Hall 151
Appointments: 507-389-2963
http://cob.mnsu.edu/advising/

College of Education
Advising Office: Armstrong Hall 117
Appointments: 507-389-1215
http://ed.mnsu.edu/advising/

College of Science, Engineering & Technology
Advising Office: Trafton Center 125
Appointments: 507-389-1521
http://cset.mnsu.edu/sacc/

College of Social & Behavioral Sciences
Advising Office: Armstrong Hall 114
Appointments: 507-389-2416
http://sbs.mnsu.edu/advisingu/

New Student & Family Programs
Undecided Advising Services
Advising Office: Preska 103
Appointments: 507-389-5498
http://www.mnsu.edu/newstudent/advising/