

University Studies

Post Office Box 751
Portland, Oregon 97207-0751

503-725-5890 tel
503-725-5977 fax
www.pdx.edu/unst

DATE: April 21, 2009

TO: PSU Campus Community

FROM: Sukhwant Jhaj, Director, University Studies
Mirela Blekic, Retention Associate, University Studies

RE: Major Exploration Day

As part of the PSU retention efforts, the University Studies, in collaboration with academic departments from all PSU colleges and schools, Undergraduate Advising & Support Center and Career Center, is organizing Major Exploration Day, a university-wide event designed to help students become familiar with and start fostering connections with their potential academic departments. The Major Exploration Day will be held during spring term and is planned as a continuation of the activities started in the University Studies program (FRINQ) aimed to help students explore how their interests relate to the choice of their major and what steps they need to take to accomplish their academic goals. Additionally, exploration of career options and their relationship to the selection of a major will enable students to begin making connections between their academic experiences and their future life and career goals.

More specifically, during the event students will be able to:

- explore majors/minors of interest with faculty advisers;
- discuss the process of creating an academic plan;
- learn about internships and other curricular and co-curricular opportunities through which they can gain experience in a chosen major;
- discuss the process of choosing a major and/or career;
- declare major/minor (optional).

This year the Major Exploration Day will be held on **Tuesday, May 5th, 2009 from 11 – 3pm in the Ballroom** (SMSU 355) and will include participants from academic departments representing over 40 majors and over 30 minors. In addition, advisers from the Undergraduate Advising & Support Center and counselors from the Career Center will be available to answer questions related to the process of creating an academic plan and choosing a major and/or career.

The event will also include **breakout sessions** on the following topics:

1. Topic: **How to Choose a Major?**

Who: PSU Career Center

When: 12 – 12:45pm

Where: SMSU 333

Description: How will you decide which major is best for you? Learn about how to choose your major and Career Center resources and services to help you with this decision.

2. Topic: **Staying on track, creating an academic plan!**

Who: Undergraduate Advising & Support Center

When: 1 – 1:45pm

Where: SMSU 333

Description: Do you know what classes you need to take? Are you worried you won't complete them all "on time" or that you might miss a class you need? This workshop can help: learn to use the Degree Audit Reporting System (DARS) and other PSU materials to make sure you stay on track.

3. Topic: **Practice: How do you know if you /really/ want to do that?**

Who: Student Activities and Leadership Programs

When: 2 – 2:45pm

Where: SMSU 333

Description: Getting involved in a student organization can be a great way to explore your future career field as well as build a resume and professional network.

For questions or more information about this event, please contact Mirela Blekic, UNST Retention Associate at mirelab@pdx.edu or at 5-9892.