Our mission is to help students develop meaningful academic plans compatible with their educational and life goals. Our focus is on “undecided” students, 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 Northern.

Tips for Success

• Make an appointment with your advisor at least once a semester.
• Seek out the academic and career information you need.
• Be ready to explore your interests, skills, goals, and values.
• Set up and regularly use your NIU email account.
• Get involved on campus.
• Go to class!

The AAC website has a number of resources that can assist you:
http://www.advisingcenter.niu.edu/advising/
At this link you will find information about NIU’s majors:
http://www.niu.edu/academics/undergrad/majors/majors.shtml
At this link you will find four-year degree plans for NIU’s majors:
http://www.niu.edu/osas/degreepaths/index.shtml
At this link you will find career information related to NIU’s majors:
http://www.niu.edu/careerservices/weblinks/

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Deciding can take time. Entering college as “undecided” can provide students with certain advantages:

• Students remain open to exploring and learning about the many majors available here at NIU.
• Students are in a better position to make informed decisions and find the major that suits them best.
• Our goal is to assist you in making a knowledgeable and timely decision about your major.

Need some help? Each year a significant number of students enter Northern Illinois University without having chosen a major. Many of these students may have questions about who they will see for academic advising. Students without majors or affiliation with one of NIU’s six undergraduate colleges are assigned to the Academic Advising Center for their academic advising needs. The AAC works with students from the time they arrive on campus during orientation until they’ve made an informed major choice.

The AAC can:

• Help students achieve their personal, academic, and professional goals.
• Provide major exploration appointments in which we discuss areas of interest, academic strengths, personal qualities, past experiences, extracurricular activities, and life goals with students. We encourage students to initiate these appointments early in the semester to better prepare them for an advising/course scheduling appointment.
• Provide academic advising appointments to assist students with the appropriate selection of general education courses that complement major(s) of interest, allowing them to explore possible interests, preferences and passions while keeping their academic options open.
• Introduce students to specific major requirements and co-curricular options to help them make an informed major choice.
• Refer students to appropriate academic departments, college advising offices, and other support services so that students can learn more about what’s available to them at Northern.

Explore and Discover!
The Exploring Majors House (EMH) is a residential living-learning community. As a resident you will have the opportunity to take part in experiences that provide opportunities to learn about a variety of careers and majors while having access to both academic and social programming events.

The EMH is located on the fourth floor of Neptune East. Neptune Hall is conveniently located in the center of campus close to the majority of classrooms.

The EMH is open to freshmen who have not declared a major as well as students interested in exploring academic options. We are an excellent housing option for students who have a tentative idea about their major, students who have several different interests they want to explore, and students who don’t even know where to begin.