

SENATE ACTION FORM

No. 1187

Subject: Exploring/Seeking Catalog Narrative Updates

Reference to Senate Minutes dated: 4/27/2020

Senate Action:

MOTION: Accept as presented the Exploring/Seeking narrative updates for inclusion in the University Catalog.

VOTE: Approved by voice vote.

Response requested:

☒ Approval for placement in University Catalog

☐ Approval for placement in University Regulations

☐ Recommendation to Board for placement in Board Policy Manual

☐ None (sent as information item)

☐ Other action requested/comments:



\_\_\_\_\_  
Faculty Senate Chair

05/06/20

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\* \* \* \* \*

Administrative review of Senate action (unnecessary for information items):

☐ Reviewed by **VPAA/Provost**. Check ☐ if comments attached

☐ Reviewed by **General Counsel**. Check ☐ if comments attached

Presidential action:

☐ Approve ☐ Reject ☐ Return to Senate for discussion/modification (comments attached)

\_\_\_\_\_  
President/Designated Administrative Officer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Date of Board approval (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE RETURN SIGNED ORIGINAL AND ATTACHMENT TO THE FACULTY SENATE OFFICE, CARTER 2004, BOX 75.**  
[faculty.senate@unco.edu](mailto:faculty.senate@unco.edu)

Attachment to Senate Action #1187  
Approved by the Faculty Senate  
April 27, 2020

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Newly approved catalog language below. Each section contains the updated language along with the link to the relevant catalog section where the updated language will replace the existing language.

*Use the links in each section to see the catalog placement.*

## **EXPLORING PROGRAM CATALOG NARRATIVE UPDATES**

<http://unco.smartcatalogiq.com/current/Undergraduate-Catalog/Undergraduate-Information-and-Policies/Student-Policies-and-Procedures/Major-and-Minor-Information/Exploring-the-Liberal-Arts>

### **Exploring the Liberal Arts**

Exploring the Liberal Arts or “Exploring” is a term used by UNC for students who have not yet decided on or declared a specific major. Typically, students choose to be Exploring for one or more of the following reasons. They:

- are uncertain about what they want to study.
- have many interests and want to explore several options first.
- declared a major but no longer want to pursue it.
- were not initially admitted to their preferred major.

Students should take their interests, skills, values, goals, and abilities into consideration when choosing a major. Soar advisors will work with Exploring students to help them navigate and connect with additional resources on campus to identify goals.

UNC new or transfer students, who are unsure about what program of study is best suited to their goals, can choose to be designated as Exploring the Liberal Arts when they enter the University. A clear path for degree completion is of the utmost importance. For this reason, students designated as Exploring the Liberal Arts are required to declare a major by the time they have completed thirty (30) credit hours toward graduation, including transfer credit. (See 30-Credit Policy for Exploring the Liberal Arts Students)

Students with a declared major who wish to change their major status to Exploring the Liberal Arts should contact Soar to make an appointment for review and approval. Students who request this change, must have fewer than eighteen (18) credits of registered and/or previously earned hours combined. Students who would like to explore other major or minor options may receive services from Soar regardless of their current major status. Soar advisors can help any student with the process of selecting a new major, yet may only advise students on course registration and provide a Personal Identification Number (PIN) if the student is declared as Exploring.

<http://unco.smartcatalogiq.com/current/Undergraduate-Catalog/Undergraduate-Studies/Student-Academic-Success/Soar>

## **Soar**

**Location:** Michener Hall L-149

**Telephone:** 970.351.1391

Soar provides the following services to undergraduate students:

- advising for Exploring the Liberal Arts;
- assistance in selecting an academic major;
- support for students experiencing academic difficulties; and
- administration of the Fresh Start Programs for first year and returning students.

A professional advising staff provides students with information regarding Liberal Arts Core requirements, academic policies and procedures, and referral assistance to departments, schools, and campus resources.

A clear path for degree completion is of the utmost importance! All students are required to declare a major by the time they have completed thirty (30) credit hours toward graduation, including transfer credit. ([See 30-Credit Policy for Exploring the Liberal Arts Students](#))

The School of Nursing advises Exploring the Liberal Arts Nursing students. These students are required to declare a major by the time they have completed thirty (30) credit hours toward graduation, including transfer credit. ([See 30-Credit Policy for Exploring the Liberal Arts Students](#))

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<http://unco.smartcatalogiq.com/current/Undergraduate-Catalog/Undergraduate-Information-and-Policies/Student-Policies-and-Procedures/Graduation-Requirements/Major-and-Minor-Requirements>

## **Major and Minor Requirements**

A major is a concentration of courses in a student's declared area of primary academic study that, when accompanied by appropriate supporting courses, leads to a degree. Majors are recorded on the student's permanent record. The requirements for a major are specified in the catalog of the academic year in which the student declares a major.

Certain courses are required for the major, but electives may be chosen from a range of alternatives prescribed by the program. Students who are unsure of their major may enter the University as 'Exploring' and are advised by Soar. The School of Nursing advises Exploring the Liberal Arts Nursing students.

Students are required to declare a major by the time they have completed thirty (30) credit hours toward graduation, including transfer credit ([See 30-Credit Policy for Exploring the Liberal Arts Students](#)). Undergraduate students may transfer from one major to another by filing a Major/Minor Change Form as long as they meet the requirements of the new program. A change of emphasis area

constitutes a change of major. Students changing majors must meet with an academic advisor in the newly declared major to obtain a Personal Identification Number (PIN).

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<http://unco.smartcatalogiq.com/current/Undergraduate-Catalog/Undergraduate-Information-and-Policies/Student-Policies-and-Procedures/Academic-Advising>

### **Academic Advising**

University policy entitles each student to academic advising. Advising expedites course selection and helps the student create an academic program suited to their needs and the University's graduation requirements.

Each undergraduate student is strongly encouraged to work closely with their assigned advisor in selecting Liberal Arts Curriculum courses, major and minor offerings and elective courses from other disciplines. If a student has more than one major or minor they are encouraged to see advisors in each area of study prior to course registration.

Declared students are assigned a faculty advisor in their major degree program. Advisor names can be found in Ursa, under Registration and Grades/Register for Classes, by clicking on "View Student Information." If an advisor name is not present, the student may call the department of the specified major to have an advisor assigned. Students declared as Exploring, and selected Seeking Program majors, are advised by Soar. The School of Nursing advises Exploring the Liberal Arts Nursing students.

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<http://unco.smartcatalogiq.com/current/Undergraduate-Catalog/Undergraduate-Information-and-Policies/Registration/Registration-Procedures>

### **Registration Procedures**

A student must be registered to attend class. The Schedule of Classes can be found by accessing Ursa and selecting "Look Up Classes" or at [www.unco.edu/sched](http://www.unco.edu/sched). Current students are assigned times during the last part of the academic semester when they may register for courses offered in the following semester. Registration dates can be found on Ursa under the Student Tab, "Your Date to Register" link. Registration consists of the following processes:

- Check Registration Status on the Student Tab/"Registration Status" link in Ursa. This will show any holds that need to be cleared prior to registration.
- Undergraduate students require a new Personal Identification Number (PIN) each semester; PINs are distributed by the student's assigned advisor. Declared students are assigned a faculty advisor in their major degree program. Advisor names can be found in Ursa, under Registration and Grades/Register for Classes by clicking on "View Student Information." If an advisor name is not present, the student may call the department of the specified major to have an advisor assigned. Students declared as Exploring, and selected Seeking Program majors, are advised by Soar. The School of Nursing advises Exploring the Liberal Arts Nursing students.

The PIN changes each semester and is required in order to register for upcoming semester classes. Summer and Interim sessions do not require a PIN. Students who misplace a PIN should contact the

advisor who issued the PIN. Students changing majors must meet with an academic advisor in the newly declared major to obtain a PIN.

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## **SEEKING PROGRAM CATALOG NARRATIVE UPDATES**

<http://unco.smartcatalogiq.com/current/Undergraduate-Catalog/Undergraduate-Information-and-Policies/Student-Policies-and-Procedures/Major-and-Minor-Information/Seeking-Programs>

### **Seeking Programs**

A Seeking Program is a collection of core course requirements that incoming students must complete prior to declaring a full major. The material covered in these courses provides the foundation for more focused and detailed study as students progress towards declaring the intended major.

The following areas are Seeking Programs:

- Dietetics
- ASLEI (American Sign Language English Interpretation)
- Nursing (RN to BSN)

Starting in a Seeking Program serves several purposes:

- It allows students to develop a strong, discipline-specific knowledge base before progressing to more sophisticated concepts. Through this exposure, they are better equipped to determine whether the intended major is the best fit for them academically.
- It provides a clear map for a student's sequence of courses, which is important for four-year graduation planning.
- Students who struggle in foundation courses are likely to struggle throughout the major. A low GPA can have long-term consequences for students' post-baccalaureate plans, such as finding employment or gaining admission into a graduate or professional school. By providing students with grade-related feedback early in their college experience, Seeking Programs allow them time to find a more suitable major if applicable.

Students matriculating into UNC under Seeking Programs will be required to adopt the most current catalog once officially accepted into a major. Like all students at UNC, those in Seeking Programs are required to declare a major by the time they have completed thirty (30) credit hours toward graduation, including transfer credit.