

2018-2019 ACADEMIC PLAN

FIRST SEMESTER

SECOND SEMESTER

Choose 1 Communication
 Choose 1 Mathematics
 Choose 1 American History
 Choose 1 Creative Arts
 UNIV 1301 Learning Framework
 Choose 1 Life and Physical Sciences
 Choose 1 Social and Behavioral Sciences
 Choose 1 Government/Political Science

Choose 1 Communication
 Choose 1 Life and Physical Sciences
 Choose 1 Language, Philosophy & Culture
 Choose 1 American History
 Choose 1 Integrative/Experiential Learning
 Choose 1 Government/Political Science
 Choose 1 Integrative/Experiential Learning

Courses in red are part of the General Education Core Curriculum (GEC).

“Choose 1” indicates course options. Please review the 2018-19 General Education Core Curriculum: www.utrgv.edu/degreeplans.

Special note: We recommend you take 12-15 credit hours per semester. Above is a recommended course sequence for you to follow during your first and second semester, but please keep in mind you may need an additional semester(s) to complete the General Education Core Curriculum.

Degree Info

Exploratory or Undeclared is a status you can hold as you take the time to discover opportunities to find a major that aligns with your interests, values, and goals.

As there is no degree in Exploratory Studies, we encourage you to declare your major within your first year at UTRGV.

UTRio Grande Valley



EXPLORATORY
CATALOG: 2018-2019
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

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Additional Info

Exploratory students know that college is the right path yet are not ready to choose a major. The University College at UTRGV serves as the academic home for all exploratory students. As an exploratory student your possibilities are open, vast, and flexible. We are excited to assist throughout your journey! It is ok to begin your college career as an exploratory student. Everyone travels different paths when declaring a major and the resources provided by University College will guide you.

BLUEPRINT EXPERIENCES

FIRST SEMESTER

RESOURCES

SECOND SEMESTER

RESOURCES

MILESTONES

- Complete your core English courses (category 010) during your first year.
- Complete 15 credit hours every semester in order to graduate in 4 years.
- Shoot for a GPA of 3.75 or higher in order to be competitive for your future program!
- Meet with an Academic Advisor at least twice a semester to discuss how you can achieve your academic goals.
- Classes fill up fast! Be sure to register on the first day for your group. Registration starts the last week of October!

Exploratory Advisors in the **Academic Advising Center** will meet with you at least twice each semester to explore academic pathways at UTRGV.

We encourage you to begin gathering information about majors of interest before your sessions in order to have a valuable discussion. Some questions you might ask yourself when considering majors are:

- What do you want to learn more about? How do you want to learn about them?
- How do you want to improve yourself in college?
- What are your strengths and abilities you wish to practice and develop?

- Continue to aim for a GPA of 3.75 or higher in order to be competitive for your future program!
- Complete 15 credit hours from the 2017-2019 General Education Core.
- Declare your place in the world and submit your major declaration with your Exploratory Advisor.

You can schedule an advising session with an Exploratory Advisor on the **Guide App**. You can also view your advising notes and explore potential majors on the app.

Once you are confident in declaring a major, you can meet with an Academic Advisor to submit a Change of Major form and review your new degree plan.



ADVICE & SUPPORT

- Be sure to check your UTRGV student email frequently so you do not miss any important information about campus events or deadlines.
- Bring your orientation folder with you when you meet with your Academic Advisor! Also, be sure to keep all paperwork you receive as a record.
- Sign up for an *Assessment & Initial Overview* appointment using Handshake to explore connections between interests, strengths and potential majors.
- Attend the Exploratory Workshop Series which will provide you tools and resources for choosing a major.

Handshake

- **Handshake** allows students to sign-up for appointments with the **Career Center**, find jobs and internships, register for career events, and more! Log in to my.UTRGV.edu to get started!

MyMajors

- Take the assessment and learn about various majors and careers based on your academic achievements, interests and personality. Go to my.UTRGV.edu to begin

First Year Experience (FYE) Podcast

- Subscribe to the FYE Podcast on iTunes or Soundcloud to listen to UTRGV students talk about their experiences.



- Meet with your academic advisor twice this semester and bring your orientation folder with you every session!
- Interview a faculty member during their office hours and asks questions about their class and field of study.
- Explore the Undergraduate degree plans found on the UTRGV website and learn about the various programs available at UTRGV.
- Participate in a volunteer or job-shadowing experience; attend networking events and career fairs.



The **Undergraduate Catalog** is a valuable resource for you to learn about specific coursework required for majors. In the Catalog, you will find each major listed with descriptions of the program, degree requirements along with the course descriptions for each major.

The **Career Center** offers you opportunities to:

- Research occupations and industries by reading books, articles, and online career resources
- Develop Yourself: Identify skills and enhance your network of professionals

APPLY WHAT YOU LEARN

- Look for a service-learning course for your upcoming spring semester! For guidance, visit the Engaged Scholarship & Learning Office.
- Become study partners with at least one of your peers.



UTRGV Engaged Scholarship & Learning supports, promotes, and expands experiential learning opportunities, such as service learning and undergraduate research.

- Consider attending the LeaderShape Institute or attend the Engaged Scholar Symposium to develop your leadership and academic skills.
- Meet students with similar interests by participating in one or more campus-sponsored community service projects.

Visit **Engagement Zone** at <https://ez.utrgv.edu/> to learn about the exciting ways you can get engaged in your community.

GLOBAL, CAMPUS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Join a student organization! Consider looking into an organization that matches your strengths and interest, visit VLink (utrgv.edu/vlink) for options.
- Get involved with the Engaging Peers in College (EPIC) mentoring program! Your mentor will guide you to have an EPIC college experience at UTRGV!

The **Engaging Peers in College (EPIC) Mentoring Program** is a year-round mentor program that will connect you with a continuing student who can assist you with being successful during your time at UTRGV.

Use **VLink** on my.utrgv.edu to find a list of student organizations and campus events

- Set up your profile on the Engagement Zone through My.UTRGV.edu.
- Check out a campus event that offers free lunch- bring a friend!
- Check out cultural campus or community events such as HESTEC or FESTIBA to learn about potential careers.

University College provides a variety of workshops focused on self-discovery. Learning about yourself is a key part of finding a major or program that matches your goals. You can find more information about these workshops on the University College website.

LIFE AFTER GRADUATION

- Look for a job on Handshake! Research shows that students who work on campus perform better than those who work off campus.

Choosing a major begins with identifying your passions, character strengths and values. You may want to consider the following questions:

- What hobbies or activities do you commit your time?
- What motivates you?
- What you care deeply about?

- Create a resume and set up your profile on Handshake. Log in to my.UTRGV.edu and locate the Handshake icon.



The **UTRGV Career Center website** offers "What Can I do With My Major?" designed to help you connect your majors of interests to possible career options.

Learn about the various career areas as well as strategies to make you a more marketable candidate.

What are the **WORLD'S NEEDS?**

MISSION

Who and what do you **LOVE?**

PASSION

What are your **TALENTS?**

PROFESSION

What can you be **PAID FOR?**

WHAT IS YOUR

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