



The University of Texas at Austin

School of Undergraduate Studies

What Does It Mean to Be A Student Enrolled in UGS?

The School of Undergraduate Studies (UGS) is home to students who have yet to declare a major. While enrolled in UGS, your student will be provided with resources and services to help with exploring majors and careers so he or she can confidently choose a field of study to pursue. UGS is the only college at UT Austin that assigns both an academic advisor and career counselor to every student.

Academic advisors in the [James W. Vick Center for Strategic Advising and Career Counseling](#) work with your student to tailor classes and experiences to prepare them to be successful while at the university. Together, they will explore your student's interests, strengths, and abilities as they develop an academic plan and choose a major that fits your student's goals. Academic advisors provide information about major options, requirements, policies, and procedures, introduce your student to the many resources the University has to offer, and maintain your student's confidentiality by abiding by UT Austin and FERPA guidelines.

Career counseling is a collaborative process of exploration. Career counselors in the Vick Center help your student explore possible career interests. Your student's career counselor will listen to your student and help clarify who they are and what they want for their future career goals. The Vick Center offers a variety of career assessments that can help your student explore and define their career pursuits. With a counselor's help, your student will connect majors to careers and sketch out multiple paths from college to the working world.

Academic advisors and career counselors in the Vick Center will help your student prepare for the process of internal transfer in order to declare a major at UT Austin. Students may spend up to four semesters in UGS though many declare a major after two semesters. The requirements to apply as an internal transfer to another college vary widely. Some will require particular coursework, a minimum GPA, and a minimum number of UT Austin credit hours. Others may require a resume or personal statement. Some majors have a competitive application process and admission is not guaranteed. UGS students meet with their assigned advisor and career counselor, both of whom are trained to guide students through the internal transfer process. By taking advantage of the personalized services the Vick Center offers and by engaging in the major and career exploration process, your student will be in a better position to make an educated decision about their major.

Students can schedule appointments online at ugs.utexas.edu/vick or by calling 512-232-8400.

Learn more about UGS at Family Orientation

If your student is enrolled in UGS for the fall and you are attending Family Orientation, you will be directed to the UGS college and school session, even if your student has identified an interest in another college or school. It will be important for you to first learn about UGS and understand the many resources in place to help your student declare a major. UGS will also present an afternoon breakout session about the [Sanger Learning Center](#), UT Austin's main resource for academic support.