

# DIVISION OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

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## About DUS

David R. Smith, Associate Dean for Advising and Executive Director, DUS

As the academic home for students exploring multiple academic programs, the Division of Undergraduate Studies (DUS) enrolls nearly one-quarter of all new incoming first-year students across Penn State. Working with primarily first- and second-year students as they decide on a major and college to enter, DUS provides robust academic advising aimed at helping students to make informed decisions to shape meaningful educational opportunities that enable their success while at Penn State. DUS provides a supportive and welcoming environment for students as they begin their studies with the University as well as for advanced students who need to make transitions prior to graduation. DUS prides itself on providing exemplary academic advising for students with interests across all of Penn State's varied academic programs. Our advisers work carefully with students, making sure that their questions are answered and also posing thoughtful inquiries to students to help them through challenging academic decisions and planning. Through intentional conversation, academic advisers in DUS provide students with the context to understand the following:

- the purpose and value of various degree requirements
- the need to make thoughtful and well-informed decisions regarding their education
- the connections between personal interests, life goals, and academic opportunities
- the need to think critically and question common assumptions about majors and careers
- the policies and processes that shape and inform educational decisions
- the steps needed to find meaningful educational opportunities such as study abroad programs, research assistantships, leadership activities, and internships
- the foundation for articulating the value of higher education, regardless of major

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE DIVISION OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES (<https://dus.psu.edu/>)

## Mission and Goals

The Division of Undergraduate Studies facilitates student exploration, engagement, and academic success by delivering exemplary academic advising, guiding institutional policy and procedure, and promoting the scholarship of advising.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE MISSION AND GOALS OF THE DIVISION OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES (<https://dus.psu.edu/vision-and-mission-statements/>)