



WILLIAM  
PATERSON  
UNIVERSITY

**Undecided about which major to choose?**  
WP offers choices, opportunities and support as a member of our Pioneer Exploratory Community!

Choosing a four-year college is an exciting time in your life. At WP, we know that the next exciting choice, deciding on a major, might take additional time. If you are entering William Paterson as an Exploratory student, opportunity awaits as you begin your individual path to success. Starting out Exploratory is a great way to ensure you take the time to learn about the WP majors and career paths that interest you the most. With a broad range of majors offered across four colleges, you never know what field might become your new passion!

### Welcome to the Pioneer Exploratory Community

At WP, we recognize that deciding on a major is best achieved within a supportive community. When you begin your path as a WP Exploratory student, you will be automatically welcomed into the Pioneer Exploratory Community. The community, housed in the Academic Advisement Center, offers one-on-one professional advice and guidance from your academic advisors, group workshops, a mentoring program with upperclassmen, and large scale events.

Members of our Pioneer Exploratory Community feel supported by staff, faculty, and upperclassmen in finding their winning combination of majors and minors. By taking courses in a variety of disciplines, and learning about your values, interests, personality and skills, you will be well equipped to narrow down your choices from the University's expansive selection of majors and minors across four academic colleges:

- College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences
- Cotsakos College of Business
- College of Education
- College of Science and Health

Through first-year coursework in the University Core Curriculum, you will have the opportunity to explore the possibilities that align with your best fit academic path and future goals.

### Did you know?

- About 25 percent of students begin their academic career at William Paterson as Exploratory.
- Entering as Exploratory will not delay your timeline to graduation or hinder your college experience. Our goal remains the same—to help you finish in four years.
- The same housing, financial aid, merit scholarships, and Honors College opportunities are available whether you choose a major or start out as Exploratory.

WP's Pioneer Exploratory Community is a supportive network of academic advisors, faculty, partner offices, and student major mentors who will work closely with you as you embark on your journey to realize your goal.  
**Destination Declared!**

## Will. Power. 101: Helping You Transition to College Life

In addition to support from your advisor, freshmen at WP participate in an innovative First-Year Experience Program to help you transition to college life. This multifaceted program of structured academic and student support services guides new students as you build the skills to balance your University coursework with other activities and responsibilities.

As a new first-year student, you will participate in weekly Will. Power. 101 student success workshops that provide personal direction to help you navigate college, including study skills and test taking,

development of an academic plan, and structured pathways leading to graduation in four years.

As an exploratory student, you will take multiple classes with other exploratory students in a community of learners. This will help you build a social network right from the start of college and benefit from a schedule with coordinated classes, built-in enrichment activities, and time for additional responsibilities.

Learn more: [wpunj.edu/wp101](http://wpunj.edu/wp101)

### Questions to consider when thinking about a major

- What do I love learning about (different cultures, famous authors, mathematical equations, human anatomy, finance)?
- In what type of environment do I picture myself working (corporate, school, hospital, construction, museum, courtroom, lab)?
- Where are my strengths/interests (meeting and talking to new people, helping others, traveling, teaching, performing, working with clients, working with children or the elderly)?
- What knowledge is needed for the type of environment in which I'm interested (biology, human behavior, family dynamics, history, technology) and what skills must I develop (e.g., leadership, persuasion, writing, creative, problem-solving, empathy)?
- What will help me explore and obtain this knowledge and skill (career development counselors, academic advisors, civic engagement opportunities, extracurricular activities)?

**Special note about nursing:** Freshmen who meet the University requirements for admission, but do not meet the nursing major requirements will be accepted to the University as Exploratory. Students will have the opportunity to reapply to the nursing department after completion of prerequisite coursework. *(Please note, however, that due to the competitiveness of the program, admission to the nursing major is neither implied nor guaranteed.)*



### Turn "I want" into "I will"

At William Paterson, we match our students' grit with outstanding academic programs and the tools and support to help them reach their full potential:

- Hands-on experience to enhance career marketability
- Opportunity to get involved in research or scholarly activities with faculty
- Professors who bring real world experience to the classroom
- Chance to work with industry professionals through internships
- State-of-the-art campus facilities
- Civic engagement opportunities
- A full range of campus support for all areas of student life



Will. Power.

Explore our wide range of academic programs:  
[wpunj.edu/academics](http://wpunj.edu/academics)

For Admissions information: [wpunj.edu/undergraduate](http://wpunj.edu/undergraduate)

**Together, we'll do this.**