The Division of General Studies (DGS) assists undeclared students with the process of exploring and declaring majors at the University of Illinois by providing holistic, developmental academic advising. DGS offers students the ability to connect with academic advisors who are committed to their success.

The Division of General Studies helps students:

- Clarify their academic, personal, and career goals;
- Identify their strengths, skills, interests, and values;
- Understand the process of exploring majors at Illinois;
- Identify the programs of study available at Illinois;
- Understand specific programmatic and degree requirements;
- Understand the Intercollegiate Transfer (ICT) process at Illinois;
- Recognize the significance of and their responsibility in the academic advising relationship;
- Learn about and connect with appropriate campus resources and services;
- Learn about the educational opportunities available at the University of Illinois including undergraduate research, study abroad, tutoring, leadership development, involvement in student organizations, volunteer experiences, and connections with faculty.

DGS provides students with opportunities to participate in academic achievement programs, the James Scholar Honors program, and short-term study abroad experiences. In addition, all DGS students enroll in an introduction to the university course, General Studies 101 (GS 101), to assist with their transition to college life and provide insight into the major exploration process at Illinois. Students may be enrolled in the Division of General Studies for up to four semesters before being required to declare a major in one of the undergraduate colleges at the University of Illinois.