Welcome to Pre-major!

Congratulations on your admission to Radford University and welcome to the Highlander Family! This Pre-major guide was created to provide you with important information that you will need to know later. We know that Quest, although fun, can be an overwhelming experience.

If you read this guide later and realize that you have questions, don’t hesitate to contact your individual advisor or the Advising Center. We’ll be happy to help you as you make your transition to Radford University!

Pre-major is a wise decision

The Pre-major Advising Center provides academic advising for students who have not yet selected a major at Radford University. Our advisors are here to guide you through the process of choosing the right fit for you and helping you explore all of your options.

Your advisor will work with you on all aspects of choosing a major, course registration, and academic success. Each appointment in Pre-major is structured to narrow down your major choices and encourage you to explore and research possibilities. Ideally, you will feel ready to declare by mid-spring semester of your freshman year. This enables you to meet with your major advisor to prepare to take major-specific classes during your sophomore year.

Let us guide you

You will meet with your advisor at least twice each semester. Each appointment has a goal, and there will be activities that you need to complete in order to make the best use of your appointment time. (The Pre-major Timeline is located on the back.)

These activities are available through your advisor’s Desire2Learn (D2L) Advising Supplement. D2L is a course management system that you will become very familiar with during your time at Radford University. Your advisor will send you more information about D2L and directions for scheduling appointments later in the summer.

Let us know you

Coming to college is a very exciting and overwhelming time! In addition to academic advising, your advisor can help you identify campus resources to enhance your time here. Ask questions – let us know your concerns and goals. The more we know about your needs and interests, the more we can assist you. We look forward to working with you!

Let us help you

Everyone in the Pre-major Advising Center is happy to help you with any difficulties that may arise. If you’re confused about something, let us know! We’ll be glad to direct you to the appropriate resource!

Desire2Learn (D2L)

Your advisor’s Advising Supplement on D2L contains a lot of valuable information, including the assignments to complete before your appointments. The supplement appears in the “departmental” section above your classes in D2L, which you can access via the MyRU portal. You should have access to the supplement and your classes in D2L by August 29th. Contact the help desk if you have technical difficulties (831-7500, www.radford.edu/tac).
Majors & Minors Fair

Although attending the annual Majors & Minors Fair is mandatory for Pre-major students, students from other majors also go to learn more about double majors, minors, and available campus resources. This year’s Fair will take place on Tuesday, October 13th, from 1-3pm in the lower level of Heth Hall.

Focus 2

To prepare for your advising appointment, you will take the Focus 2 career assessments online. Your advisor will review your results and make suggestions to help you prepare for the Majors & Minors Fair.

THINGS TO DO

- If you have taken courses for college credit through another college (including dual enrollment through your local community college), request that your final transcripts be sent to RU. These may differ from those you sent in when you applied.
- If you have taken AP or IB courses, have your test scores sent to RU for credit review.
- The Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act (FERPA) Policy prevents us from discussing your information with your parents. If you would like us to be able to talk to your parents about you, make sure you have signed a FERPA release before you leave today. (Contact the Registrar’s Office in 305 Heth Hall for more information.)
- Check your RU email frequently and consider creating an Advising folder to save correspondence from your advisor. Your RU email is how RU offices will contact you. You don’t want to miss important information!

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Pre-major Advising Center
103 Walker Hall
premajor@radford.edu
540-831-5220

Fall Timeline & Resources

Each semester, Pre-major students are required to have a minimum of two advising appointments and complete an exploration task to help them find their best fit. If these requirements are not completed, students will not be allowed to register for spring classes.

Appointment 1
(August - September)

The first appointment is about your transition and where you are in the exploration process. We will talk about how things are going, review your classes, and go over campus resources that may be helpful to you.

We will discuss all of the majors available at Radford University (see page 4 in your Quest guide) and review your Focus 2 results. (The Focus 2 is a career planning system that links your interests and values to possible careers/majors.) We will also make sure that all of your transfer credits are visible on your degree audit (if applicable). That’s why it’s important that you make sure you complete the checklist to the left.

Appointment 2
(October - November)

In your second appointment, we will talk about midterms, how things are going, and spring registration. We will teach you how to use the GPA calculator and review any resources that may be helpful to you, such as the Learning Assistance & Resource Center (LARC) and NetTutor.

We will also review what you learned at the Majors & Minors Fair (the mandatory fall exploration task). Many students feel ready to declare by this point. If you do, that’s great! But don’t feel that you have to declare if you’re not ready. There’s still time to explore in the spring!

Additional Resources

You don’t have to wait until the fall to start exploring majors and careers. There are lots of resources available to you online!

Academic Advising

The Academic Advising website, www.radford.edu/advising, was designed as a one-stop portal for frequently sought-after information. You will find contact information for each of the College Advising Centers and direct links to all of the majors and minors available on campus. The Student Resources page contains links to academic, campus, and financial resources, including on-campus employment opportunities.

Pre-major Advising

Pre-major Advising’s website, www.radford.edu/premajor, includes information about scheduling, what to expect as a Pre-major, and advisor details. We also maintain a list of career links on our Career Resources page including “What Can I Do With This Major?” and O*Net, a free online database that contains occupational outlooks and job details.

Social Media

We use Facebook and Twitter to share important dates and announcements. We also post events and activities that may help you get more involved at RU or further your major exploration.

#RadfordPremajor
@RUPremajor

The annual Majors & Minors Fair is a centralized location for students to come explore majors, minors, and other academic opportunities. It’s a great time to talk to professors in your fields of interest about major curricula and applicable careers.