

University Studies Division

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The University Studies Division (USD) reports to the Office of Undergraduate Academic Development and Retention (UADR). Other UADR units include the Preprofessional/Postbaccalaureate Studies Office and the Scholars' Community.

The University Studies Division supports undergraduate students' core curriculum study and improved academic success, especially during the freshman year. Students who choose not to declare a major at the point of admission to the University of Houston will be offered assistance through the USD that will help them later make an informed decision about a major field of study. All USD students will declare a major by the beginning of their junior year (60 credit hours), if they have not already done so.

The USD's professional advising staff provides core curriculum, Texas Success Initiative (TSI), lower level prerequisite and alternative major advising. The University Studies Division is located in room 320 of the Student Service Center and is open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. No appointment is necessary. As a convenience to evening students, USD is also open Monday and Tuesday evenings to 6:00 p.m. during the fall and spring semesters when classes are in session.

Advising Resources

The USD is the primary resource and support for:

1. New students.
2. Undeclared students.
3. Students on Academic Notice.
4. Students in transition.
5. Prospective students.

6. Alternative major exploration.
7. Students seeking Texas Success Initiative (TSI) information.
8. Advisor training and certification.

Texas Success Initiative (TSI)

The University Studies Division has the responsibility for TSI screening, advising, compliance monitoring, and remediation assignment. For current Texas Success Initiative program information, see the Admissions, Advising, Orientation, and Registration section of this catalog. The USD maintains a record of students' TSI and other related scores and provides students with copies of TSI scores for area community college admission requirements and College of Education professional program requirements.

Advisor Training

USD designed and administers the campus-wide Undergraduate Academic Advisor Certification Program and maintains the online Academic Advising Manual. The USD develops, organizes and presents semesterly University Advisors' Meetings and other advisor training opportunities.

Campus Advising Support

The University Studies Division is responsible for the university-wide collection and coordination of advising information and advising policies. The division has developed and maintains a University Studies Division website (www.usd.uh.edu) providing advising information to students and staff. USD staff members create, update and maintain Academic Advising questions for the Ask Shasta database and respond to individual Ask Shasta inquiries. Members of the USD staff participate in the Admission Review Committee, Student-Athlete Admissions Committee, Cougar Preview, and New Student Orientation (providing core curriculum placement and student success information).

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