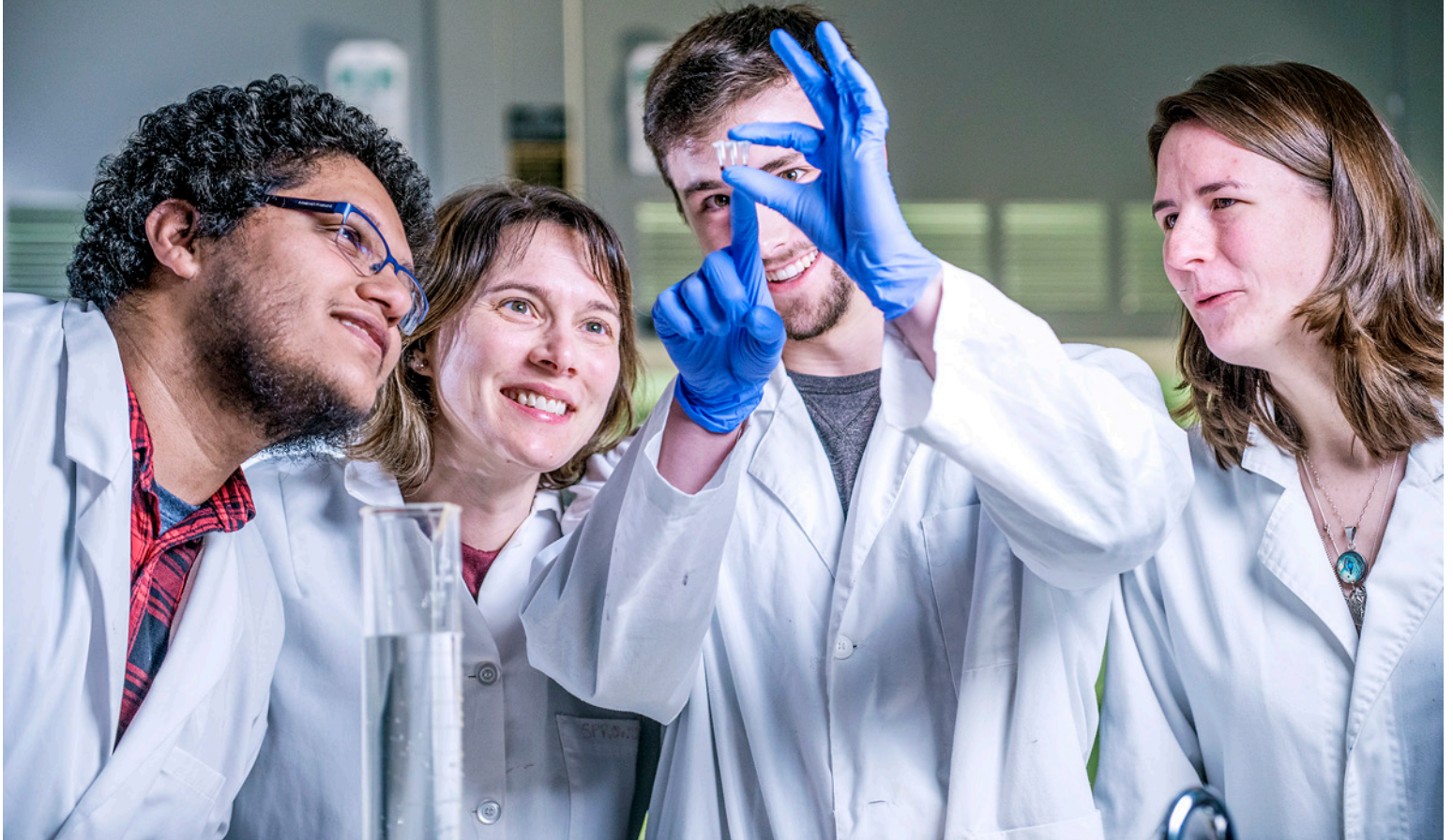


# Academics at HSU



**Persisting in college and then graduating will be one of the most challenging and rewarding experience your child will ever have. Here at HSU, we know they can do it. Our goal and mission is to support every student so that they can succeed and earn their degree.**

## HSU's Academic Program

All of HSU's 51 majors, 69 minors, graduate programs, and credential programs are located in one of our three colleges. They are the College of Natural Resources & Sciences; the College of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences; and the College of Professional Studies. We have nearly 600 part-time and full-time professors.

We encourage our students to choose a major as soon as possible in order to set them on the path to graduation. They will be a part of a learning environment that prepares them to write and present effectively, develop critical and creative thinking skills, and gain an expanded world perspective. We want your student to

## Top Tips

**Plan ahead—we recommend students choose a major by the middle of their second year.**

**Talk to your student about trying to take 15 units per semester, which is usually a path to graduate in four years.**

**Use support services like tutoring and advising on a regular basis. Encourage your student not to wait until they struggle.**

**Encourage your student to learn good study habits early on.**

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be prepared to succeed in their careers, identify goals, practice lifelong learning, and value social justice and environmental responsibility.

## Planning ahead

We recommend that our students find out during their first year what it takes to graduate from HSU. They're not alone. We're here to help with the support of professors, advisors, and staff to lead them toward student success!

To graduate with a bachelor's degree, students must earn at least 120 units. Most classes are 3 units, and a "full load" for a semester is usually five classes. All students complete a series of general education courses, as well as courses in their specific major. Some classes are lower division and some are upper division—meaning more rigorous.

The University has Major Academic Plans (MAPs), which are recommended pathways to graduating on time in each major. Remind your student to refer to their MAP when choosing courses and making big decisions like changing majors.

Many students have not yet chosen a major when they start their freshman year, while many students will change their major. That's okay. We encourage students to explore options. But we also encourage them to try to settle on a major by mid-way through their second year, which for most majors keeps them on a four-year graduation path.

Students can use Degree Audit Reports (DARs), which tracks their progress toward a degree. In addition, Student Center is an online resource to help students find information and plan classes.

## Classes

We recommend students try to take at least 15 units per semester, which usually means five classes. While a student is considered full time with 12 units, that will not keep them on a pace to graduate in four years. Taking 15 units becomes a cost savings because it can help your student graduate in four years.

Students register for classes online. Except for new students, this is normally in November for the spring semester and in April for the fall semester.

## Academic Support

There are many ways to get help with school, from visiting professors during office hours to group study sessions. In addition, the Academic Career & Advising Center offers support.

HSU has programs across campus that offer tutoring, study skills, help with writing papers, services for students with disabilities, and support for traditionally underrepresented students.

It's best if students seek support early on, rather than waiting for problems. For example, many students believe they only need services from the Academic Career & Advising Center as a last resort, or when

their grades are suffering. But that's not the case. The Center's advisors can help students complete a degree on time, prepare for a future career, and achieve other goals.

The University Library is another resource for academic support. Much more than just a place for books, it houses the Learning Center, and offers classes that help students with study habits, new technology, and more.

## Grades

Students with a grade point average 2.0 or above (C average) are considered in good academic standing. A 2.0 grade point average is also required to graduate. Of course, we recommend students strive for the best grades possible for career opportunities or graduate school options.

## Study Habits

College is much easier if students develop good study habits early. Here are some things to suggest to your student:

- **Pay attention to each class syllabus—they explain what students are expected to learn.**
- **Use a calendar to mark deadlines and due dates.**
- **Study for two hours for every hour in class.**
- **Meet with professors during their office hours. They're here to help.**
- **Seek out study groups, or create a new one with classmates.**
- **Use online campus services like Student Center.**

## Resources

Academic & Career Advising Center: [humboldt.edu/acac](http://humboldt.edu/acac)

Learning Center: [learning.humboldt.edu](http://learning.humboldt.edu)

Cultural Centers for Academic Excellence: [caae.humboldt.edu](http://caae.humboldt.edu)

Student Disability Resource Center: [disability.humboldt.edu](http://disability.humboldt.edu)

Educational Opportunity Program: [eop.humboldt.edu](http://eop.humboldt.edu)

HSU Catalog: [pine.humboldt.edu/registrar/catalog](http://pine.humboldt.edu/registrar/catalog)

HSU Learning Outcomes: [academicprograms.humboldt.edu/node/17](http://academicprograms.humboldt.edu/node/17)