

Making Major Decisions

MAJOR MYTHS

My major will determine my career path

There is only one major that will fit my interests, values, and skills

I must make a good choice regarding my major because I will be working in this field for the rest of my life

I must pick a major based on the job outlook and salary

I won't be able to find a job if I don't select a major with a clear career path

Campus Resources to Help

- Faculty and Departmental Advisors
- Academic Advising
- Career Services
- Purposeful Life Work Mentors
- Office of Religious Life
- Campus staff and administration

Online Resources

www.bls.gov/ooh – information about careers and training
<http://whatcanidowiththismajor.com/major/> - provides multiple career paths for college majors

Steps to Make Your Decision

Take stock of your interests, skills, and values

- Ask yourself, what do I enjoy doing?
- What activities make you lose track of time?
- What accomplishments demonstrate my strengths?
- Are there any causes that are important to me?
- Do you have values that guide your life choices?
- Do you have a dream career?
- What have been your favorite classes?
- What feedback have you received from others regarding your talents?
- Consider a career inventory

Review the majors that coincide with your interests, skills, and values

- Look at Departmental websites
- Research online and view “What can I do with this major?” – Career Services website
- Talk to faculty members who teach the major you are considering
- Talk to upper class students in this major
- Review checksheets, course descriptions, and catalogue (Registration and Records), Do the descriptions sound interesting to you?
- Develop a list of post-graduation options for applying the skills and knowledge you would acquire in this major
- Talk with your faculty advisor, mentor, and/or Career Services
- Review professional associations related to this major

Test out your interest in majors

- Take elective or core courses
- Attend a career fair and talk to employers about options with your interests and Major/minor
- Get involved in student organizations or related service activities
- Conduct informational interviews with alumni from this major or participate in job shadow experiences
- Attend any panels or informational sessions this major might have
- Declare your major selection at Academic Advising

Think about how you might want to apply this major after college and confirm your decision through activities in and out of the classroom

- What skills/interests do you enjoy using and will this major allow you to use these skills/interests after graduation?
- Participate in research, study abroad, internships, PT jobs or service that will give you experience in this field
- Take leadership roles in student organizations related to your desired major
- Develop a resume/portfolio that you can use to demonstrate your skills (to employers and to help you clarify your direction)
- Consider a minor that may compliment your major
- Develop a plan with your academic advisor or mentor to make the most of your opportunities and to prepare you for your career/post graduate goals