So... you’re undecided...
Agenda

• Introduction

• Myths about choosing a Major

• Choosing a major – it’s a process

• Identify your interests

• Exploration

• Next steps
Everyone else knows their major!

80% of students entering college admit that they're not certain what they want to major in.

50% of college students change their majors at least once.
There is one "right" major for everyone.

FALSE.

There are over 270 majors at Ohio University. Each of us has abilities, interests and values that match up with more than one of these majors. You may discover a major that's perfect for you, but that doesn't mean you couldn't enjoy other majors, too. Similarly, people can enjoy a number of possible jobs and careers.
My major will determine my career path
Major = Career

History

Cultural Geography

Sports Information
"How does a liberal arts degree relate to a career?"

http://www.cas.ohiou.edu/undergrad/content/career/libartcar.asp

Key Skills of Liberal Arts Majors:

• Writing
• Speaking
• Research and information retrieval
• Analytical thinking
• Creative thinking
• Learning and synthesizing new ideas
In today’s fast evolving world, leaders across the spectrum of vocations and professions need a broad imaginative and critical capacity, not a prematurely narrow point of view. In terms of the actual world, a solid liberal arts and sciences education will generally prove the most practical preparation for many demanding, high-level careers, or for the several careers that an increasing number of adults will eventually pursue. No particular concentration or area of study is inherently a better ticket to security, leadership, or personal satisfaction than another. Students should be encouraged to follow their passions and interests, not what they guess (or what others tell them) will lead to a supposedly more marketable set of skills.

The Value of a Liberal Arts Education
http://www.admissions.college.harvard.edu/about/learning/liberal_arts.html
If I haven't chosen a major yet, I don't need to do anything now. I'll just take General education Tier I and II courses my first year and wait until I've completed those requirements to think about choosing a major.

FALSE
Why?

- First, it’s difficult to stay motivated to go to class and earn the best possible grades if you don’t have a clear goal— even if that goal changes.

- Second, it takes time to collect the information to make a careful choice of major.
• You will probably complete or nearly complete your Tier I and II general education courses by the end of the first year, and you will register for next fall's courses in April.

• If you haven't been working to make an informed decision, what will you register for in April to take next fall?
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
UNDECIDED
DEGREE: N/A
SEMESTER DARS REPORT

--------- COLUMN 1 ---------

EMAIL:
CAMPUS:
LEVEL:
COLLEGE: University College
PLAN: Major or Code: ND1201 CATALOG: 2011-12
Undecided

--------- COLUMN 2 ---------

NO UNIVERSITY RESIDENCY
COMPLETE A MINIMUM OF 30 HOURS AT OHIO UNIVERSITY.

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NO GENERAL EDUCATION TIER I FIRST-YEAR ENGLISH COMPOSITION
- 1) COMPLETE A FIRST YEAR ENGLISH COMPOSITION COURSE. NOTE: ENG 1610 IS RESERVED FOR NON-NATIVE SPEAKERS OF ENGLISH.
   NEEDS: 1 COURSE
   SELECT FROM: ENG 1510, 1610

OK GENERAL EDUCATION TIER I QUANTITATIVE SKILLS
Sp12 MATH2100 3.3 A- QTR: MATH113

NO GENERAL EDUCATION TIER I JUNIOR COMPOSITION
- R 1) COMPLETE ONE JUNIOR COMPOSITION COURSE (J). NEEDS: 1 COURSE
   SELECT FROM: ART 3000J, AVN 3250J CLWR 3850J
   IART 3600J JOUR 4410J MGT 3100J, 4800J ML 3210J
   ML 3270J NRSE 3700J PBIO 4180J, 4181J PHIL 3610J
   POLS 3050J PRMC 3250J REC 3700J SAM 3250J
   - OR COMPLETE 2 JUNIOR COMPOSITION EQUIVALENCY COURSES (JE) WITHIN YOUR PROGRAM OF STUDY. ALL JE COURSES ARE LISTED BELOW, BUT COURSES OUTSIDE YOUR PROGRAM OF STUDY MUST BE APPROVED BY THE SAME DEPARTMENT/SCHOOL. COURSES MUST BE TAKEN FALL 2012-13 OR LATER.
   NEEDS: 2 COURSES
   SELECT FROM: CS 4200 CHE 2010, 4110 COMS 3400
   CONS 3500 JOUR 3310, 3500, 3630, 3700, 4650, 4700, 4800 ME 3510
   ME 4880

NO GENERAL EDUCATION TIER II - COMPLETE 21 HOURS WITH AT LEAST 2 HOURS FROM EACH OF THE 6 DISTRIBUTION AREAS.
NO MORE THAN 2 DISTRIBUTION AREAS MAY BE SATISFIED WITH COURSES FROM THE SAME DEPARTMENT/SCHOOL. NO MORE THAN 6 OF THE 21 HOURS MAY BE FROM THE SAME DEPARTMENT/SCHOOL. NO MORE THAN 2 COURSES MAY BE FROM THE MAJOR DEPARTMENT OR AREA OF CONCENTRATION.

EARNED: 3.40 HOURS
1 SUBRET
5 SUBRET

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*************** CONTINUED ON COLUMN 2 PAGE 1 ***************
Thinking about my decision making

Knowing how I make decisions

Knowing about myself

Knowing about my options
Knowing about yourself

- Interests
  - What I enjoy

- Values
  - What I consider important

- Abilities
  - What I do well
What do you like to do?

• Co-curricular activities – student organizations
• Hobbies and free time
• Volunteer activities
• Favorite classes
• Reading about specific topics
John Holland

- **Realistic**: Practical, Scientific, Methodological
  - Biostatistician, Data Administrator
  - Data Driven, Analytical, Detail Oriented
  - Public Health, Veterinarian, Public Health Dentist

- **Investigative**: Observe, Analyze, Evaluate
  - Epidemiologist, Environmental Health Specialist, Health Services Researcher

- **Conventional**: Innovative, Intuitive, Creative
  - Public Health Policymaker, Public Health Planner

- **Enterprising**: Influence, Persuade, Perform
  - Public Health Educator, Health Promotion Specialist

- **Artistic**: Enlighten, Inform, Train
  - Public Health Communications Specialist

- **Social**
- **Realistic**- People who prefer to work with objects, tools, machines, plants or animals

- **Investigative**- People who like to analyze, evaluate, or solve science and math based problems

- **Artistic**- People who like to work in unstructured situations

- **Social**- People who like to work with people in a helping capacity

- **Enterprising**- People who like leading or managing for organizational goals or economic gain

- **Conventional**- People who like to work with data
Knowing about my options

- Things to consider:
  - Does your current major or those you are considering line up with your code?

- What are the majors offered at OU?

- Action steps!
  - Identify 2-5 Majors that you feel fall in line with your Holland Code
• Guidelines and General Information
• Colleges and Curricula
  – 9 academic colleges and Regional Higher Ed.
  – Academic college admission requirements
  – Academic college general education requirements
Degrees Offered on the Lancaster Campus:

www.ohio.edu/lancaster

Associate Degrees

• Accounting Technology
• Associate of Arts (Arts and Humanities)
• Associate of Arts (Social Science)
• Associate in Science
• Business Management Technology
• Child Development Technology
• Computer Science Technology
• Electronic Media
• Engineering Technology
• Human Services Technology
• Individualized Studies
• Law Enforcement Technology
• Medical Assisting Technology
Bachelor Degrees

- Communication Studies
- Criminal Justice
- Early Childhood Education
- Health Service Administration
- History
- Middle Childhood Education
- Psychology
- Social Work
- (SLS) Sport and Lifestyle Studies
- (BSS) Bachelor of Specialized Studies
- (BTAS) Technical and Applied Studies
- (BSAM) Applied Management
What to do now?!?

• Explore
  • Research online
  • Utilize the Career and Leadership Development Center’s online resources

• Talk
  • Reach out to advisors/professors in the majors you have an interest
  • Set up a Career Coaching appointment

• Do!
  • Take classes
  • Volunteer
  • Join student organizations
Building Your Network

• **Why network?**
  • Build professional connections in your field
  • Discover what it is like to work in the field
  • Determine if your field is a “fit” for you

• **Where to start...**
  • Identify areas of professional/personal interest
  • Share your interests with people you know
    • *Find out if any contacts are in a similar field*
    • Ask
Assessments to assist in identifying and articulating skills and strengths

- John Holland Personality Test
  
  http://personality-testing.info/tests/RIASEC.php

  “The Holland Occupational Themes is a theory of personality that focuses on career and vocational choice. It groups people on the basis of their suitability for six different categories of occupations. The six types yield the RIASEC acronym, by which the theory is also commonly known. The theory was developed by John L. Holland over the course of his career, starting in the 1950s. The typology has come to dominate the field of career counseling and has been incorporated into most of the popular assessments used in the field. The RIASEC Markers Scales from the Interest Item Pool were developed by Liao, Armstrong and Rounds (2008) for use in psychological research as a public domain alternative to the usual assessments which are marketed commercially”. (text taken directly from website)
Jung typology:

http://www.humanmetrics.com/cgi-win/jtypes2.asp

“This free personality test is based on Carl Jung’s and Isabel Briggs Myers’ personality type theory. Upon completion of the questionnaire, you will:

- Obtain your 4-letter type formula according to Carl Jung’s and Isabel Briggs Myers’ typology, along with the strengths of preferences and the description of your personality type
- Discover careers and occupations most suitable for your personality type along with examples of educational institutions where you can get a relevant degree or training
- Understand communication and learning styles of your type.” (text taken directly from website)
• “What-if” DARS

• http://www.ohio.edu/careerandleadership/

• What Can I Do With A Major In...: http://whatcanidowiththismajor.com/major/

• http://www.careerinfonet.org/employerlocator/

• http://www.bls.gov/ooh/home.htm

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