



Where can your major take you?

When trying to figure out what the future holds, it is easy to become overwhelmed with the multitude of options in front of you. Having a major doesn't necessarily mean you know what you want to do with it, and even if you do know what type of work interests you, do you know everything that's involved? With this exercise, you will be able to narrow your interests and come to a better conclusion on what you need to be doing now to get where you want to be.

Research

Research the different types of jobs available in your field of interest. A great place to start is the website www.about.com, which gives detailed information about many different topics. Search the career options in your field of study, and narrow it down to a few you may be interested in.

Criteria

Once you've decided on a few career paths that suite you, consider the following for each:

- What type of degree/experience is needed?
- What type of setting will you be working in?
- Who are the types of people you will be working with?
- What types of work/tasks will be involved?
- What are the typical hours you would be responsible for?
- If it's important to you, what is the average salary?

Make a List

Now take a look at all the information you have gathered. Is there a job that seems to fit your personality and interests more so than the others? Is there one that may not be the best choice for you after all? Out of all the potential careers you've found, try to order them from favorite to least favorite. With each job, include all of the job criteria and other relevant information you've found.

Take the Next Step

Once you've decided on the type of career(s) you want, find out how to reach that goal. Talk to your academic advisor or someone you know already in that type of position and learn what steps you need to take to get there. Here are a few things to consider:

- How can you get the experience you need? Do you need to volunteer or take part in an internship?
- If you need to go to graduate school, research which ones offer the program you need and also find out which ones fit your budget and location requirements.
- What are some important skills you'll need in that position? How can you get those skills?