Making a Major Decision
Agenda

- Major Choice: Fact or Myth
- The Major Planning Process
- Career Center & Exploration Resources
What You'll Learn Today
At the end of this workshop, you will be able to...

1. Identify Career Center and external resources that will guide you in deciding on your college major
2. Understand what factors play into what major(s) are right for you and your career ambitions
3. Debunk myths that your major automatically equals what careers you can choose from
NACE CAREER READINESS COMPETENCIES

Obtaining **requisite competencies** that broadly prepare college graduates for a **successful transition** into the workplace.
#1 Fact or Myth?

The majority of students find themselves in a career field related to their major.

MYTH
According to data from Career Builder, a national survey was conducted by Harris Interactive found that 47% of college-educated workers reported not working in the field of their major.

U.S. Census Bureau also found that 74% of those who have a bachelor's degree in STEM are not employed in STEM occupations.

#2 Fact or Myth?

Declaring a major before 3rd year still allows students to graduate in four years.

FACT
Fact

80% of students change their major at least once. Data shows students who made a FINAL decision by the end of their 2nd year were still able to graduate in four years.

Major exploration can lead to:

• Knowledge of all the options
• Identifying a major that fits interests and skills

National Center for Education Statistics, 2017, EAB student success collaborative, 2019
#3 Fact or Myth?

Specific training and experience in one’s chosen field are the most important variables in finding a job after graduation.

MYTH
### Myth

**NACE Job Outlook 2017: Top 10 qualities/skills**

2019 National Association of Colleges and Employers. All rights reserved

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Quality/Skill</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Problem-solving skills</td>
<td>82.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Ability to work in a team</td>
<td>82.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Communication skills (written)</td>
<td>80.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Leadership</td>
<td>72.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Strong Work Ethic</td>
<td>68.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Analytical/Quantitative Skills</td>
<td>67.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Communication Skills (verbal)</td>
<td>67.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Initiative</td>
<td>67.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Detailed-oriented</td>
<td>64.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Flexibility/adaptability</td>
<td>60.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Myth

According to the 2019 study on Liberal Arts and Employment:

“93% of employers agree that candidates’ demonstrated capacity to think critically, communicate clearly, and solve complex problems is more important than their undergraduate major.”

-Association of American Colleges and Universities

Employers value non-technical majors and their broad knowledge
Career Decision Making Model

Know Yourself
Identify your values, interests, personality type, skills and strengths.

Explore Options
Research career options.

Gain Experience
Reality-test fields of interest.

Take Action
Further develop your skills, network and job search strategy.
The first step in making a career decision is to identify your values, interests, personality type and skills.

These important “who am I?” pieces will help you generate career ideas that may be a good fit.
Assess: Who Am I?

Personality
- Creative
- Persuasive

Interests
- Travel
- Health

Values
- Continual Learning
- Helping Others
- Collaboration

Skills
- Leadership
- Public Speaking
Activity: Quick Self-Assessment
Assessment Tools Available through UCR Career Center

✓ Strong Interest Inventory
✓ Myers Briggs Type Indicator
✓ Focus 2 (on Handshake)
✓ Career Leader ($20 Fee)
Assess: Focus 2

careers.ucr.edu → UCR Handshake → Resource → Focus 2

Access Code can be found on Handshake
First time user, please create your account here!
Your Personality Type

- You focus your attention on the exploration of new ideas that can lead to improvements that can benefit people.
- Your approach to new projects is to be open minded, flexible and committed to the project goals.
- You like to work with other people who share your values and interests.
- You are enthusiastic, spontaneous, and strive for perfection in subjects that appeal to you.

Choosing Your Career:

People with your personality type are attracted to occupations that can make a contribution to society, help other people, and improve the knowledge and the well-being of others. Examples of such occupations are found in the fields of teaching, counseling, health sciences, literature, art and psychology.
### Personality Assessment Results

**Open Minded, Enthusiastic, Observant, Creative, Spontaneous**

### Occupations Matching Your Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Supporting Majors/Programs at University of California-Riverside</th>
<th>National Median Salary</th>
<th>Job Family</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic Advisor</td>
<td>Education</td>
<td>$55,030.00</td>
<td>Community &amp; Social Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Actor/Actress</td>
<td>Visual and Performing Arts, Dance, Theater and Drama, Film/Cinema Studies, Music</td>
<td>$74,817.00</td>
<td>Arts, Entertainment, Sports, &amp; Media</td>
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<tr>
<td>Admissions Counselor</td>
<td>Education</td>
<td>$36,500.00</td>
<td>Community &amp; Social Service</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Explore

Remember that your major doesn’t dictate your career. According to LinkedIn profiles, UCR alumni work in a variety of industries and job functions!

**Business**
- Business Development
- Operations
- Accounting
- Education
- Information Technology
- Program/Project Management

**Biology**
- Healthcare Services
- Research
- Education
- Business Development
- Community and Social Services
- Operations

**Computer Science**
- Engineering
- Information Technology
- Education
- Research
- Arts and Design
- Business Development

**Psychology**
- Healthcare Services
- Education
- Community and Social Services
- Human Resources
- Research
- Information Technology
Explore

Ask Questions

✓ Talk to...
  - Academic Advisors
  - Grad Students
  - Faculty
  - Alumni
  - 3rd/4th Year Students
  - Career Counselors
  - Student Orgs

✓ Look for ways to combine interests through your choice of major(s), minor(s) and areas of concentration

✓ Think about the skills/experiences you would like to gain to complement your major
What resources are available?
Exploration Resources

- Course Catalog
  Upper Division Courses

- ONET (Occupational Information Network)
  http://online.onetcenter.org

- OOH (Occupational Outlook Handbook)
  http://www.bls.gov/ooh

- LinkedIn Alumni – what was their major and what career path did they pursue?
Career Development Programs

Guiding You to Career Success

UCR’s Career Center offers a variety of programs to assist all students on their career path, providing guidance on resume writing, job searching and interviewing. The Career Center also provides specialized programming for underrepresented student groups, including first-generation college students, undocumented students and student veterans.

ASPIRE

ASPIRE — Abilities-focused Students: Planning, Informing, Resource building, Exploring employment — is a career development and professional-leadership program focused on the enhancement and exploration of career skills and transferable life skills for undergraduate...
ASPIRE (Abilities-focused Students: Planning, Informing, Resource building, Exploring employment)

The Butterfly Project (A partnership between the Career Center and Undocumented Student Programs)

Get HIRED (Help International students Reach Employment Destinations)

Internship Success Program

Operation VETS (Veteran, Employment, Transition, Success)

ORBITS (Obtain Resources, Become Informed, Target Success)
What questions do you have?
Location: We are located in the Career Center Plaza. Our entrance is the University Lecture Hall and the Surge Building, behind the UCR Campus Store.

Hours:
Mon. - Fri. 8 am to 5 pm except Wed. 9 am to 5 pm

Individual counseling appointments available
Schedule on Handshake

Drop-In Hours:
Mon. - Thurs. 10 am-3pm
Fri. 10 am-12 pm