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...

- Identify Career Center and external resources that will guide you in deciding on your college major
- Understand what factors play into what major(s) are right for you and your career ambitions
- Debunk myths that your major automatically equals what careers you can choose from
Obtaining requisite competencies that broadly prepare college graduates for a successful transition into the workplace.
#1 Fact or Myth?

Many students find themselves in a career field related to their major.

MYTH
Myth

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

U.S. Census Bureau also found that 72% of those who have a bachelor's degree in STEM are not employed in STEM occupations.

Career Builder, 2017, data from 2013 college graduates; U.S. Census Bureau: American Community Survey, America Counts: Stories Behind the Numbers, 2019
#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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Myth</th>
<th>NACE 2021 The Key Attributes Employers Seek on College Graduates’ Resumes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Ability to work in a team – 81.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Problem-solving skills – 79.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Analytical/quantitative skills – 76.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Communication (verbal) – 73.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Communication (written) – 72.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Initiative – 67.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Leadership – 67.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Technical Skills – 67.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Flexibility/adaptability – 65.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Strong work ethic – 65.4%</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 VIPS: Who Am I?

Jonathon

Values
- Learning
- Helping Others
- Collaboration

Interests
- Travel
- Health

Skills
- Leadership
- Public Speaking

Personality
- Creative
- Persuasive

Personality
- Helping Others
- Collaboration
- Learning
- Creative
- Persuasive

Skills
- Leadership
- Public Speaking
- Travel
- Health

Interests
- Learning
- Helping Others
- Collaboration
- Creative
- Persuasive

Values
- Travel
- Health
- Leadership
- Public Speaking

Personality
- Helping Others
- Collaboration
- Learning
- Creative
- Persuasive

Skills
- Leadership
- Public Speaking
- Travel
- Health

Interests
- Learning
- Helping Others
- Collaboration
- Creative
- Persuasive

Values
**Activity: Quick Self-Assessment**

- **Values**: Deeply held beliefs about what you MUST have in your life for it to be worth living. Some folks want “enough” money. Some want security or stability. Others want power or prestige. Maybe you want creativity or independence. Values act as a filter for the other pieces.

- **Interests**: Things that you LIKE, can get immersed in doing, and lose track of time while involved in them. It is likely that these are tasks or activities that you are likely to stick with long enough to master it.

- **Personality**: How do you process information? Are you detail or big-picture oriented? How do you make decisions? Are you one who uses your head or your heart? Do you prefer your time to be scheduled or spontaneous?

- **Skills**: Things you do well. Can be natural talents, strengths, abilities you have acquired through education or training. You may have skills using data and information, working with equipment or things, or valuable people skills.

**Activity: Quick Self-Assessment**
Gift Box Exercise
Gift Box Exercise

Major/Degree

Your Name
Gift Box Exercise

Bachelor of Science
Computer Science

Ability to learn independently
• Scrum
• New computer languages
• Graphic design

Service Oriented
• Volunteer experiences

Personal strengths
• Ability to make connections
• Communication
• Multilingual
• Adaptable
Career Assessment Tools Available:

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

Access Code can be found on Handshake

Next Interpretation on May 28, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.
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.
Your Results

Open Minded, Enthusiastic, Observant, Creative, Spontaneous

Filter 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</td>
<td>$74,817.00</td>
<td>Arts, Entertainment, Sports, &amp; Media</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dance</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Theater and Drama</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Film/Cinema Studies</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Music</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<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
- Biotech/Biopharma
- Research
- Education
- Business Development
- Community and Social Services

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

UC RIVERSIDE Career Center
Explore
Ask Questions
✓ Talk to...
  Academic Advisors  Grad Students
  Faculty  Alumni
  3rd/4th Year Students  Career Specialists
  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 (p. 6 & 7)
   https://registrar.ucr.edu/registering/catalog

➢ What Can I Do With This Major?
   https://whatcanidowiththismajor.com/major/

➢ LinkedIn Alumni
   What was their major and what career path did they pursue?

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

➢ OOH (Occupational Outlook Handbook)
   http://www.bls.gov/ooh
Join the UCR Career Network, an online community for networking, mentoring, and job opportunities for alumni and students.

**MENTORING**
Matching process that connects current students with alumni or alumni with one another.

**JOB SEARCH**
Job board for those currently seeking employment or for alumni looking to hire other Highlanders.

**NETWORKING**
Discussion boards to meet and network with others who have similar career questions.

REGISTER AT CAREERNETWORK.UCR.EDU
What questions do you have?
Location: We are located in the Career Center Plaza. Our entrance is near 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-3 pm
Fri. 10 am-12 pm