EXPLORING CAREERS AND MAJORS

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HOW TO BEGIN!

- Deciding to attend college, and then picking a college major involves some self reflection, as well as some solid research!

- With thousands of colleges and majors choose from, trying to find the right fit of where to go and what to study can make you say, “Where do I begin?”

Start the reflection process to discover your interests, as well as your aptitudes/skills
Applying to colleges “undeclared” will not hurt your chances of getting accepted!

- An estimated 20-50% of students enter college undecided.
- You don’t need to have all the answers at this stage.
- Many colleges have programs designed to help new students think about and take a variety of classes and offer targeted advising to help them declare a major.
DID YOU KNOW?

Many students who enter with a declared major end up switching or pivoting their majors before graduation

WHY?

• identifying a new interest
• understanding themselves better
• discovering other majors or career opportunities
SO MANY PATHS TO CONSIDER
WILL I BE BEHIND IF I DON’T HAVE A MAJOR RIGHT AWAY?

- Most students are taking “general education” classes through their first year
- Classes in “majors” typically open up to students starting in the second year
- There are some majors that immerse a student in right away, based on the number of required classes, number of students in that major, and the resulting complexity of scheduling
ARE MAJORS AND CAREER CHOICES CONNECTED?

• Choosing a college major does NOT lock a student into a specific career path

• While some careers require specific majors that cannot be substituted, (think engineer, nurse) most careers have different paths to getting there!
COMPARE COLLEGE SUPPORTS - ESPECIALLY IF UNDECLARED

What do you want from your college?

- Assistance for undeclared or undecided students
- Engaged academic and career advisors
- Encouragement and time to explore classes/majors
- A good number of majors to consider
WHAT TO CONSIDER WITH A CAREER CHOICE?

INTERESTS
what you love

APPTITUDES
skills & talents

VALUES
benefits
money
lifestyle

Start exploring careers where all three areas intersect to find the key to your professional life
I’M CREATING MY MAJOR: INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH

Chart your own path with a specific goal in mind
CHECK OUT YOUR COLLEGES!

• Talk to college representatives at high school visits
• Attend college fairs
• Campus visits – utilize April vacation!
  o Open Houses & Information Sessions
  o Tours
  o Overnight Visits
  o Interviews
  o Observe a Class
WHAT DO YOU GAIN FROM ANY COLLEGE EXPERIENCE?

• Life skills to help you become a responsible and involved citizen or leader
  ○ Communication, problem solving, independence

• Skills and tools to help you qualify for better career opportunities
  ○ Hard skills or “hands on” training
  ○ Better understanding of an industry or career
OTHER TOOLS....

Loyola College Quiz
luc.edu/undergrad/academiclife/whatsmymajorquiz/

College Major Quiz
thoughtco.com/college-major-quiz-4089204

Best Colleges Guide
bestcolleges.com/resources/choosing-a-major/

What Can You Do With This Major?
whatcanidowiththismajor.com

Find Your Calling
findyourcalling.com

NHHEAF Aptitude and Interest Assessment
nhheaf.org
ANOTHER OPTION TO HELP YOU CHOOSE A MAJOR OR CAREER

• Take a series of Brain Games that measure your aptitudes and strengths
• Gain access to career groupings based on how well your aptitudes and interests match those shown. Find your Best Fit career options!
• Affirm interests or open new avenues of possibility
• Identify the majors that move you towards any career you consider

Contact the Center for College Planning to get your activation code!

(603) 227-5444 | nhheaf.org | collegeplanning@nhheaf.org
FINAL THOUGHTS

• Exploration during this time is key!
  o Job shadows in majors you are considering
  o Use your network
  o You took an assessment- take a deeper dive

• Go online: research careers, majors, and colleges
• Visit and talk to colleges
• Stay open to the possibilities
• Use all this to make informed education decisions