

STEP 4: Test Drive Your Career

Get Relevant Experience:

- Job Shadow A Professional
- Volunteer
- Obtain An Internship
- Get A Part-Time Job
- Study Abroad
- Conduct Undergraduate Research
- Take Exploratory Courses
- Join Student Organizations, www.uncw.edu/stuaff/activities/StudentOrgs/directory.htm

Locate Employers:

- UNCW Experience, www.uncw.edu/career
- What Can I Do With A Major In...? www.uncw.edu/stuaff/career/Majors
- CareerSearch, visit Career Services to utilize
- E-Leads, www.uncw.edu/career

Make Decisions

- There is no major that is perfect or that can meet all your needs.
- This is not a final decision. Most students don't pursue a career specifically related to their major. You are free to change careers throughout your life to fit your needs.
- Choosing a major rarely limits you to one career. Most majors give you the education (only one part of your personal package) that can enable you to enter a variety of careers.
- Once you have declared a major, don't feel like you have to stay committed to it. Keep your options open and continue exploring different majors to ensure the right fit for you.

Can't decide between two majors?

- Consider a double major, or get a minor in one of the areas.



University of North Carolina Wilmington

CHOOSING A MAJOR

Introduction

You're in college and everyone is asking, "What's your major?" Are you stressed because you don't have an answer? You may have even considered a few majors, but none of them seemed like "The One." First off... relax; exploring majors can be fun. In fact, deciding students have the motivation and determination to investigate several majors/careers, and thus will make more educated decisions about their future.

Facts about deciding students:

- An estimated 20-50% of all students are deciding about their major.
- Students change their major an average of three times before graduation.
- More than 60% of all students enter a career that's not directly related to their college major.

STEP 1: Assess Yourself

Take the following Career Assessments to learn about yourself and generate a list of potential majors/careers. They can be accessed by going to Career Services Web site (www.uncw.edu/career) and clicking on "Self Assessments".

Choices

Assess your interests, personality, values, and skills all in one place.

Humanmetrics

Gain a greater self awareness by obtaining your personality type.

Career Key

Identify your career interest code and related occupations similar to Holland's Self-Directed Search.

STEP 2: Narrow Your Options

Research the careers that you and your Career Counselor generated from your assessment results.

UNCW Career Services Resources:

- What Can I Do With A Major In...?, www.uncw.edu/stuaff/career/Majors
- Career Planning & Exploration Resources, www.uncw.edu/career

Occupation/Industry Information:

- O*NET, <http://online.onetcenter.org>
- OOH, www.bls.gov/search/ooh.asp?ct=OOH
- Hoover's Online, www.hoovers.com
- WetFeet, www.wetfeet.com
- Vault, www.vault.com

UNCW Resources:

- UNCW Undergraduate Catalog, www.uncw.edu/catalogue
- Academics Web site, www.uncw.edu/www/acad.html
- Randall Library, <http://library.uncw.edu>
- UNCW Bookstore - browse through the assigned texts to get an idea of what the courses involve.

STEP 3: Discuss Your Options

- Career Counselor - receive guidance throughout your exploration process
- Professionals - conduct Informational Interviews with professionals in your field
- Students - Ask friends about their majors
- Alumni - network with alumni in various careers
- Faculty - Ask what skills you will develop in the major, what kinds of careers graduates typically pursue, and what they like about their field
- Advisors (www.uncw.edu/gc) - Ask which courses are challenging, what students like/dislike about the major, and what prerequisites are needed
- Attend the Academic Majors Fair to talk with multiple departments in one location

