

Career Exploration

Beginning your career journey may seem overwhelming. Whether you have a major or career in mind, or if you are feeling completely undecided, you can use this guide to help you in the career exploration process.

Step 1: Create a **PathwayU** account and complete all four assessments on the homepage of our free, personalized career assessment and exploration tool (Interests, Values, Personality, & Workplace Preferences).

Step 2: Explore the careers and majors based on your results and rank your top choices.

Careers and Majors I'm Exploring

Major(s) to Explore:	Career(s) to Explore:
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.
4.	4.
5.	5.

Step 3:

Investigate your results.

- If you have your career options narrowed down, are still undecided, or want to go over your assessment results in more detail, make an appointment through **Handshake** or stop by **CareerLab** to talk with a career advisor.
- If you have your majors narrowed down, start reviewing degree requirements and make an appointment to meet with your academic advisor and plan out your coursework.

Possible Next Steps...

Try to select 3 steps from the list below to help you get started in exploring career options:

- **Check out over 200 majors and programs.** Start by crossing off majors you would **NOT** like to pursue: <https://www.gvsu.edu/acad-index.htm>
- **Meet with a career advisor** who can help you with your career plan, facilitate career assessments, and help narrow down your options based on your results: <https://www.gvsu.edu/careers/appointments-and-careerlab-9.htm>
- **Take the US 102 Career Exploration course** (1 credit). This class is recommended for exploring students and will guide you through your major and career planning.
- **Check out the websites** *What Can I Do with This Major*, *Career Guides by Major*, and *O*Net* to learn more about career opportunities: <https://whatcanidowiththismajor.com/major/>; <https://www.gvsu.edu/careers/career-guides-by-major-165.htm>; <https://www.onetonline.org/>
- **Attend the Majors Fair** in the fall semester to talk with advisors and faculty members from all majors on campus.
- **Attend Career Center events** to explore the world of work with professionals in various fields: <https://www.gvsu.edu/careers/events-homepage-8.htm>
- **Conduct a job shadow.** Find a professional who has the kind of job you want, and then ask if you can observe them on-site during their work day: <https://www.gvsu.edu/careers/make-connections-informational-interviews-and-job-shadows-219.htm>
- **Conduct an informational interview.** Find someone who is already working in the profession you are considering and have a conversation with them. You can have a formal or informal discussion over the phone or Zoom, via email, or in-person: <https://www.gvsu.edu/careers/informational-interviewing-219.htm>
- **Check out student organizations** you would like to join. Social clubs and pre-professional clubs are a great way to connect and build your skill sets: <https://www.gvsu.edu/studentorg/>
- **Meet with your academic advisor** to identify classes that can help you explore a major. As you learn about majors and careers, you will be able to narrow down your options: <https://www.gvsu.edu/advising/advising-centers-70.htm>