Choosing a College Major

Unsure of a Major? Many students don't know what they'd like to study. This is okay! Many colleges have an 'undeclared/undecided' major and programming once on campus that help students explore possibilities (make sure you learn more about these programs if you're applying as an undecided major).

Lots of schools are also doing "Exploratory" majors, which offer a ton of guided support (meeting with an advisor to pick classes, career research help, job placement support, etc.), and are a nice alternative to going 'undecided', which historically does not offer a whole lot of additional guidance. An added benefit to applying to an exploratory major is that there is usually some assurance that credits for the classes you take will transfer to whichever major you choose (check with your advisor ahead of time about this).

Review this page from <u>CollegeData.com</u> for some great information and advice (and know that 50+% of students change their majors during their college years, so while the decision may feel like a huge one, you'll still have opportunities to explore and make changes once on campus).

A big part of choosing a major involves self-reflection and knowing your strengths. Think about your courses and experiences - what do you like? What interests you? Consider other experiences you've had - work, community service - what do you like about those experiences?

Talk to adults in your life about their jobs and what it took for them to get there. It's ok (and common!) to be unsure, but it's important to reflect about these things as you explore college options.

It's also a great idea to complete an <u>interest profiler</u> to assess your strengths and personality traits, information that can give you direction into potential majors and careers. This is great insight to have as you move forward in your search process. This interest profiler takes only about 20 minutes to complete, and there are countless more online, including <u>several here</u>.

Another option to help you consider different majors is <u>MassHire</u>. You can complete a variety of assessments to help you understand your strengths and personality traits that can in turn help you consider majors that fit your interests.

- Career Cluster Inventory & Interest Profiler both help you find career groupings that match your interests.
- Reality Check is a great tool to help you understand how much money you need to live the life you want, which relates to your career options.

If you are uncertain about a major, this is a great place to start!